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Arab-Israeli Talks

Officials Preview Israel-PLO Negotiations

Sha'th Discusses Talks

NC0907143694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1355 GMT 9 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 9 Jul (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa conferred today with Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation in the Palestinian Authority Council and head of the Palestinian side to the Palestinian-Israeli talks.

Following the meeting, Dr. Sha'th said that they had discussed issues related to the resumption of the Palestinian-Israeli talks in Cairo on Monday [11 July] and preparations for these talks. He noted that he will lead the Palestinian delegation to the talks with the Israelis, who will be led by General Rothschild. Dr. Sha'th explained that issues related to the resumption of the Gaza-Jericho talks and the release of the remaining detainees and prisoners, including Shaykh Ahmad Yasin and special cases, will be the most important issues to be discussed in the next round of talks. Other issues related to extending the Palestinian authority to the West Bank and organizing the elections that must be over before the end of October will also be discussed, he added.

Dr. Sha'th noted that the Palestinian side has called for a meeting of the quadripartite committee, grouping Egypt, Palestine, Jordan, and Israel, to discuss the return of 860,000 displaced Palestinians who left after 1967. The meeting, he explained, will be held in Cairo on a date to be determined in light of the current consultations among the parties concerned.

PNA Envoy Views Talks

NC1007151194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1300 GMT 10 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 10 Jul (MENA)—Muhammad Subayh, Palestine ambassador to the Arab League and Palestine National Council secretary, has stated that the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations, slated to be held in Cairo tomorrow, will touch on three main topics.

In an exclusive statement to MENA, Subayh said that the topics will deal with issues that have not yet been resolved concerning the implementation of the Palestinian self-rule, the release of the remaining Palestinian detainees, and the early transfer of powers to the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] in the other West Bank towns.

Subayh said that the PNA is currently drafting a plan for the entry of 11,000 members of the Palestinian police corps to the other West Bank towns preparatory to holding the legislative elections by the end of this year or early next year.

In his statement, Subayh said that Cairo was selected as the venue for the resumption of the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations for many reasons, foremost among which is Cairo's role in the peace process. He stressed that Egypt is a full partner which made exceptional efforts to eliminate all obstacles that faced the peaceful process.

The Palestinian official added that the Palestinian side will benefit from Egyptian expertise and support. He pointed to the existing consultations and full cooperation between the Palestinian negotiating team and the brothers in the Egyptian Foreign Ministry.

Muhammad Subayh said that the negotiations will involve several topics which are divided into three points: The first point deals with the pending part of the Cairo Agreement, namely the area of Jericho. He said this topic has consumed an unnecessarily long time because the Palestinian side will raise the issue of the early empowerment in the other West Bank towns during the negotiations with the Israeli side. Hence, any negotiations about the area of Jericho will be futile. Therefore, the Israelis should not cling to one inch of this area and should hand it over to the PNA.

The Palestinian official said that the second point in the upcoming Palestinian-Israeli negotiations deals with the release of the remaining Palestinian detainees, noting that this point concerns every Palestinian, without exception, including President Yasir 'Arafat. Subayh said that Israel's failure to release the detainees would poison the peace atmosphere.

Subayh said that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres have noticed the importance of this issue as far as every Palestinian and Arab is concerned. He voiced the hope that all the detainees would be released immediately since the security issue is the responsibility of the Palestinian side and since this side has demonstrated a rational approach and a sense of responsibility regarding all issues.

Muhammad Subayh said that the third point that will be raised during the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations concerns the presence of the Palestinian police force on the Allenby Bridge. He said Israel should implement this provision as soon as possible. Subayh said: We warn against any procrastination because in the past this led to a delay in the implementation of the Oslo Accords for seven months and, consequently, caused the Ibrahimi Mosque massacre.

Subayh expressed the hope that the early empowerment in all the West Bank towns would be in effect within three or four months. He said that this point will be discussed during the negotiations slated to start in Cairo tomorrow, 11 July. He said that members of the Palestinian security and police corps will enter these towns.

Subayh added that the Palestinian side will bring about 11,000 members of the Palestinian security and police force to the other West Bank towns. He said: We are currently preparing these forces so that the Palestinian legislative council elections can take place by the end of this year or the beginning of next year at the latest.

Israeli Delegation Arrives in Cairo

NC1107083494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0800 GMT 11 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 11 Jul (MENA)—The Israeli delegation participating in the new round of Palestinian self-rule negotiations arrived in Cairo this morning headed by General Danny Rothschild, Israeli coordinator of government activities in the occupied territories.

The new round starting today focuses on finalizing the Gaza-Jericho Agreement, releasing the Palestinian detainees, and the early transfer of power to the Palestinian National Authority.

Israel-Jordan Talks To Focus on Technical Issues

PM0807143094 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 8 Jul 94 p 5

[Report by Salamah Ni'mat: "Jordanian Source: Israel Acknowledged Beforehand Our Right to al-Yarmuk and Jordan Rivers"]

[Excerpt] Amman—A senior [Jordanian] political source stressed yesterday that Israel did indeed acknowledge Jordan's right to the waters of the al-Yarmuk and Jordan rivers and recognize the international border between the two countries according to the 1928 British Mandate maps, before the agreement to begin negotiations over water rights and border demarcation on 18 July.

The source told AL-HAYAH that the negotiations, which will be held in Jordanian Taba, 10 km north of al-'Aqabah, "will focus on technical questions and will not discuss the principle of the Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Jordanian territories" along the cease-fire line, totaling some 380 square km in area.

Israel "responded to Jordan's demands before the agreement to hold the negotiations which was announced on 7 June following a meeting in Washington." But he pointed out that Jordan wants the negotiations—at least in the early stages—to remain at the technical level to ensure "that progress on the Jordanian track will not be seen as a separate solution along the lines of the PLO's."

The political source pointed out that Amman "is seeking to guarantee a minimum level of coordination with Damascus by ensuring that progress on the Jordanian track coincides with tangible progress on the Syrian track."

The sources stressed the importance of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's tour of the region on 17 July "with regard to achieving this balance if he succeeds in convincing Israel of the importance of this coincidence in the expected progress."

The source stressed that Damascus and Washington "have reached a good level of understanding on the issue of the occupied Golan Heights." He reemphasized that "the door is still open" to restoring Jordanian-Syrian coordination and rapprochement in the stage ahead. [passage omitted]

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 28 Jun

NC1007095594

[Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 28 June issue of the Arabic-language newspaper Cairo AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Editorial Praises Lawyers Struggle; Lawyers Strike Postponed
2. National Dialogue Congress Debate Reviewed
3. Islamic Columnist Criticizes National Dialogue
4. Columnist Calls For End to Palestinian Secularism

EDITORIAL PRAISES LAWYERS STRUGGLE; LAWYERS STRIKE POSTPONED

In a 500-word editorial on pages 1 and 2, Chief Editor Majdi Ahmad Husayn praises the lawyers struggle. He expresses admiration for their steadfastness in the face of the "authorities' arbitrary actions and disregard for their legitimate demands." The writer notes that the lawyers' strike has succeeded. The authorities have released many detained lawyers and "there is an intention to release the rest tomorrow, Wednesday." This was the reason for postponing the lawyers strike scheduled for today and postponing the Ismailia conference, he says. Husayn concludes: "We, of course, welcome the cease-fire between the government and the lawyers." But, he continues, the real victory for the lawyers and the nation's will lies in the continuation of a genuine investigation into the death of 'Abd-al-Harith Madani and in seeing those who killed him hanged.

In a related item, AL-SHA'B publishes on page 1 a 50-word announcement in big, bold letters signed by lawyers doyen Ahmad al-Khawajah and the lawyers syndicate's secretary general, Sayf-al-Islam al-Banna. The announcement says: "The pertinent authorities have announced that all the detained lawyers, including the three council members (Mukhtar Nuh, Khalid Badawi, and Jalal Sa'd), will be released within hours and that Ahmad Nasr and the other colleagues will be released within the coming few days. The strike scheduled for today and tomorrow has been postponed."

NATIONAL DIALOGUE CONGRESS DEBATE REVIEWED

AL-SHA'B devotes large space to the national dialogue congress debate. It publishes on pages 1 and 7 an unattributed 1,200-word news analysis from inside the congress about the dialogue proceedings. It publishes another 2,000-word article by 'Abd-al-Fattah Fayid on page 2 reviewing the positions outlined in the congress committees by the Labor Party representatives on political, economic, and social issues. It publishes on page 5 another 2,000-word article on the subject by Muhammad Hilmi Murad in which he explains that "if the ruling regime or the parties, public associations, institutions, and figures taking part in the national dialogue want this dialogue to produce something useful—however limited it may be—the appropriate atmosphere of peace in the relationship between the government and the society in which we live must first be created outside the national dialogue congress hall. This is not difficult for the government to do."

ISLAMIC COLUMNIST CRITICIZES NATIONAL DIALOGUE

Islamic columnist Ahmad al-Malat publishes an approximately 2,000-word article on page 5 in which he comments on the national dialogue congress debate. He notes: What we are witnessing and what is preoccupying the media these days is not a dialogue. What is happening is that an authoritarian and collapsing government gripped by numerous problems from which it cannot extricate itself is seeking to attract to its side all the forces so that they can all enter the deadly whirlpool, adopting the principle of "let the house fall on me and on my enemies." He charges that "the government, in over four decades, has failed to adopt an independent policy based on its Islamic faith and its glorious Islamic heritage."

Al-Malat then criticizes the absence and usurping of freedoms in Egypt, noting that God created man free and freedom is more precious than food. He berates the absence of freedom of expression, wondering what happened to some known Muslim preachers and "advocates of Islam such as Shaykh al-Ghazali, Shaykh Kishk, Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Akhir, Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rashid Saqr, Shaykh al- Mahallawi, and many others." They have been made to disappear from the stage, he says, and asks: "Is this the kind of freedom you claim to advocate?" Where is the freedom of every Egyptian under the Constitution to form parties? Why has the government launched this campaign against the professional associations? Where is the freedom and honesty of elections? Where is the freedom of the youths to think of what is best for their religion and world? "These rights have been usurped and they must first be returned to their owners before anyone should think about dialogue," he contends. The author goes on: It is wrong to hold a dialogue to discuss whether to return some or few of these rights and to overlook the many other rights. The people are demanding their rights in full now. They have been patient but their patience is about to run out.

Al-Malat concludes: The al-Wafd and the Nasirite Parties did well to boycott the dialogue. "As for the Muslim Brothers, they have no need of it. The authorities have always excluded them. They have been expressing their views for over 60 years and they are proceeding according to the Koran and tradition. They will not deviate from this course, God willing."

COLUMNIST CALLS FOR END TO PALESTINIAN SECULARISM

In his regular "This is Our Religion" column on page 12, Muhammad al-Ghazali publishes a 300-word article in which he states that Britain after World War II granted the Jews a national homeland in Palestine. This took place on the ruins of the Arabs, because Britain thought the Muslims did not deserve to live. A new reality has now been created. "The people of Palestine now need a new kind of jihad perhaps more difficult than before. My greatest fear is that the people of the usurped country will fight each other and use their bravery against each other. I even think that foreign forces will attempt that. So I believe that the foothold gained by the Arabs must be fortified and secured. Islamic education should be used to strengthen ethics, double production, spread compassion, and restore sense to those who have lost their senses. The banner of secularism must be lowered quietly." We must respect our religion, he urges, adding that the Palestinian people are clever and can utilize what happened for a more prosperous and pure future. He concludes by calling on the Palestinians to "honor Islam as their fathers and forefathers did, and the future, with God's help, will be yours."

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 1 Jul

NC1007114094

[Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 1 July issue of the Arabic-language newspaper Cairo AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Report Criticizes National Dialogue Congress
2. Released Lawyers Claim Hunger Strike Victory
3. Four Labor Party Members Arrested in al-Fashn
4. State Investigations Into Lawyer's Case Continue
5. National Dialogue Deliberations Detailed
6. Writer Discusses London Seminar on Secularism, Islam
7. Article Demands State Clampdown on Health Treatment by Koran
8. Interior Minister Decision on Girls Uniform Criticized
9. Writer Refutes Claims of Secrecy in Muslim Brotherhood
10. Muslim-Christian Dialogue in Asyut

REPORT CRITICIZES NATIONAL DIALOGUE CONGRESS

Page 1 carries a 200-word report by 'Abd-al-Fattah Fayid on the national dialogue congress, in which he claims the Labor Party representatives were not given enough chance to express their opinions. But the party did, he notes, express "its disapproval of binding recommendations made by the majority, the National Democratic Party, and imposed on the opposition." The writer says the national dialogue was not serious. The Labor Party wanted the final document to contain all the opinions expressed and discussed during the congress.

RELEASED LAWYERS CLAIM HUNGER STRIKE VICTORY

An approximately 1,000-word report by Khalid Yunus on pages 1 and 7 claims that the lawyers were victorious in their hunger strike. They succeeded in "releasing the lawyers who were detained after incidents at the Lawyers' Association in May." The lawyers said their action would continue until all their detained colleagues were released and the death of their colleague 'Abd-al-Harith Madani investigated. The writer reports on a news conference held by doyen 'Abd-al-'Aziz Muhammad after his release, in which he describes the injuries inflicted to Madani's body. The report also cites statements by many of the released lawyers, most notably Mukhtar Nuh, who says: "The recent positive development [the release of the lawyers] indicates that channels of dialogue have been opened up. But much had to be paid for such a step." He says he hopes the rest of the lawyers will be released.

On the same subject, a 2,000-word report by Subhi Buhayri is published on page 5 detailing the news conference by Lawyer 'Abd-al-'Aziz Muhammad after his release. As well as describing the injuries to Madani's body, he salutes all his brothers who, he says, are still demonstrating their defiance in prison by going on hunger strike. He expresses his surprise at the government's behavior, inviting the political forces in the country to hold a national dialogue "while refusing to speak with the lawyers at the outset of the events in a case that was clear-cut." He thanks all human rights organizations in Egypt and abroad who helped the lawyers' case by applying pressure on the government.

FOUR LABOR PARTY MEMBERS ARRESTED IN AL-FASHN

Page 1 carries a 20-word unattributed report on four Labor Party members who were arrested at the party headquarters in al-Fashn. Lawyer Sayyid 'Ali Khalil has been asked to take their case.

STATE INVESTIGATION INTO LAWYER'S CASE CONTINUES

Page 1 carries a 100-word unattributed report that the Higher State Security Prosecution on Wednesday continued investigations with Lawyer Muntassir al-Zayyat regarding charges that he "allegedly has an international telephone line and a fax he uses to contact and transmit orders among members and leaders of the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt and abroad." Al-Zayyat denied all the charges.

NATIONAL DIALOGUE DELIBERATIONS DETAILED

Pages 2 and 3 carry various reports by various correspondents on the proceedings, discussions, and remarks made during the various meetings of the national dialogue committees.

WRITER DISCUSSES LONDON SEMINAR ON SECULARISM, ISLAM

Fahmi Huwaydi writes a 4,000-word article on page 4 discussing a recent seminar held in London at which various papers were presented on the relationship of religion, the world, and life in general. The seminar was organized by the Center for Democratic Studies at Westminster University in cooperation with the Liberty Organization and the participants were intellectuals and researchers, not politicians. The title of the seminar was "The Collapse of Secularism and the Islamic Challenge to the West." Huwaydi states: "No one mentioned the issue of religion and politics. Discussion focused on the general relationship between religion and the world and life and whether it is based on division or contact. This makes the political issue involved in this subject seem minor with regard to the secular project." Among the speakers at the seminar was Professor John Cain, head of the Democratic Research Center, whose paper focused on "Rethinking Secularism."

A Georgetown University professor, Louis Cantouri, also presented his paper entitled "Islam and Democracy Between Egocentrism and Secularism." He maintains that the best way to describe Islamic society's project is through the idea of "mutual agreement" [al-takafuliyah], since "it elevates the status of religion, promotes the interests of the group, and preserves moral and lofty values." He believes, he says: "These are promising projects representing progressive thinking capable of elevating the nation and meeting its ambitions."

Other speakers at the seminar included Richard Webster, writer of the book "A Concise History of Heresy: Liberalism, Censorship, and the Satanic Verses;" Dr. Nilover Golah, professor of sociology at the Bosphorus University in Istanbul; Thomas Mastnek, professor of political sciences at the Slovenia Academy; and Dr. 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Masiri, part-time professor at 'Ayn Shams University, who presented a paper on secularism. Al-Masiri analyzes Western concepts of humanity and says the West places the white man at the center of its society. "The strong secular state guided Western man and his lifestyle (within the framework of the material background latent inside this society) and turned him into beneficial material for the state," he argues. "Nazism," he adds, "is a prominent manifestation of the history of Western secularism." The excess useless European population, the Jews, was turned into a useful element by being moved to Palestine, "making it acceptable to move the Arabs from Palestine, since they are a useless element to Arab civilization."

ARTICLE DEMANDS STATE CLAMPDOWN ON HEALTH TREATMENT BY KORAN

An 800-word column by Dr. Nabil Zakariya al-Birri on page 6 discusses what it calls the bad practices against the dignity of mankind and the Koran. He expresses his anger at doctors who claim to heal people from sicknesses through the Koran. He cites cases he has treated involving people who were first treated by such doctors. These patients would have died had he not stepped in at the right time, he states. He demands that these doctors who allegedly heal through religion be asked to submit a comprehensive health program to the concerned authorities on their methods. Since they cannot do that, he notes, he asks that the state clamp down on them. Doctors should also educate their patients in health issues.

INTERIOR MINISTER'S DECISION ON GIRLS UNIFORM CRITICIZED

An unattributed 500-word report on page 6 criticizes the interior minister's specifications for school uniforms for girls. The length of the skirt they wear and whether they wear a headscarf are optional and must be approved by the parents. The report asks the rhetorical question: "What would happen if parents did not approve of letting their daughter wear a headscarf or a long skirt? 'Who should the girls obey then?'"

WRITER REFUTES CLAIMS OF SECRECY IN MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD

Page 7 carries a 1,500-word article by Muhammad 'Abd-al-Wahid entitled "Reading Into the Papers of the Alleged Grouping" in which the writer refutes "documents on the secret organization of the Muslim Brotherhood" published in "a weekly magazine" [AL-MUSAWWAR]. He refutes these claims by providing evidence that the Brotherhood cannot be a secret organization, since its activities are known to the state and the public. He reviews the history of the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt. He notes that the Brotherhood has always maintained that "government is not the goal, but reforming government through Islam." He advises everyone to put public interests before everything else.

MUSLIM-CHRISTIAN DIALOGUE IN ASYUT

The same page carries an approximately 5,000-word report by Jamal As'ad on a frank dialogue between the Christian and Muslim leaderships in Asyut. The report lists some of the personalities who participated in the dialogue and the various ideas they presented, such as the history of relations between Copts and Muslims in Egypt, the values of Islam, the unacceptability of identifying Egyptians as Muslims only, the need for cooperation by all parties, terrorism, the third parties involved in the conflict, and those sides benefiting from it. One of the participants is Dr. Muhammad al-Sayyid Habib, head of Asyut University's Studies Club and a Muslim Brotherhood member. He makes the point that Muslims and Christians form the multicolored web of Egyptian society. He says the duty of Muslims is to establish justice between the people and fight off oppression. He claims that the relationship between Muslims and Christians is one of survival, because when part of the web burns, the whole of society will erupt in flames. Christian participants expressed their apprehension about the situation and one participant explained that Muslim religious statements sometimes detract from the national rights of Christians. The same participant wonders how this statement gives non-Egyptian Muslims national rights in Egypt while "the Egyptian citizen, a son of this country, is not given these same rights." A lawyer, Mustafa Ramadan, claims that there are anti-Coptic governmental laws such as restrictions on building churches in Egypt. He notes: "There is sectarian behavior fed by the state against the Copts. Otherwise, how can we explain the death of 14 Christians in one go in Sanabu?" He demands the cancellation of such laws.

Political Islam Review: 'AQIDATI 28 Jun

NC1007085894

[Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 28 June issue of the Arabic-language newspaper Cairo 'AQIDATI that pertain to political Islamic issues.

Note: The paper continues to provide extensive coverage of government-sponsored religious enlightenment campaigns and readers' questions soliciting fatwas [rulings] on various everyday social, medical, and economic issues. There is a 4,000-word report on pages 4 and 5 on an enlightenment campaign in Qalyub, mainly discussing a need for cooperation and amity among Muslims. The fatwas, in the form of answers given by various al-Azhar scholars to the readers' inquiries, occupy pages 8 and 9. One notable answer is given by Shaykh Salih Hathut, a member of al-Azhar's Fatwa Committee, banning the issuing of fatwas except by people of the required qualifications.

CONTENTS:

1. Religious Profiteers Blamed
2. Secularists Berated
3. The State in Islamic Jurisprudence
4. New Television Program
5. Balkans 'Allamah Interviewed
6. Muslims in America, Italy

RELIGIOUS PROFITEERS BLAMED

The "In All Frankness" column on page 6 features an article by Basyuni al-Halawani under the headline "The Mujahidin in Egypt and Support for Terrorism." He reports that when he was in London he was astounded to see people urging worshippers coming out of the city's largest mosque to donate to Algeria's "mujahidin" and says that the sight of those worshippers emptying their pockets into "the backing-for-terrorism funds" proved to him that terrorist acts are not financed only by "foreign circles hostile to the Islamic community's stability," but also by unsuspecting Muslims who fall prey to charlatans. Turning to those described as mujahidin in Egypt, he asks: Are they the ones who "bear arms, terrorize peaceful citizens, kill innocents, turn wives into widows, and attack and kill dozens of policemen?"

Al-Halawani claims: "Islam is plagued by some of its sons who have become more dangerous to it than its enemies. In spite of this, Muslims are still preoccupied with discussing a cultural invasion and the West's confrontation of Islam. What they need to do is first get rid of those who profiteer by Islam and use it as a means to achieve their objectives."

SECULARISTS BERATED

Under the title "Everyone is a Terrorist!," Majdi Salim writes a 600-word article on page 10 warning of "the secular Western stream" in Egypt, "secret meetings," and "a clandestine distribution of roles in preparation for a concerted attack at the right moment." He says a recent seminar held on the anniversary of the assassination of secular writer Faraj Fudah provided an opportunity for some secularists to "give vent to their hate for everything Islamic."

Salim accuses Egyptian secularists of failing to differentiate between the "state-sponsored moderate Islamic stream that represents the majority and extremism that is hurtful to Islam itself."

He defends government-organized religious enlightenment campaigns, the National Democratic Party religious publication AL-LIWA' AL-ISLAMI, and 'AQIDATI. He says 'AQIDATI has "raised the banner of middle-of-the-road Islam and confronted both religious and antireligious extremists."

He blames secularists for describing the Awqaf minister and al-Azhar imam, among others, as extremists.

THE STATE IN ISLAMIC JURISPRUDENCE

A 3,000-word article on page 6 by Dr. Muhammad Ibrahim al-Fayyumi, secretary general of The Higher Council for Islamic Affairs, bears the headline: "Political Thought and Issues Attributed to Islam." The article discusses early Muslim history and the controversies involving Sunnis, Shiites, and the Kharijites, who opposed both the fourth and fifth caliphs during their 7th century conflict and declared: "There is no government except God's". The writer tackles this point, saying: "Political jurisprudence in Islam believes that the state has been a permanent requirement since human society developed. The state is a social necessity and a healthy phenomenon in a nation. A society without a state will be overtaken by chaos, perturbation, and dissolution."

NEW TELEVISION PROGRAM

A 300-word unattributed report on page 18 says that Egyptian Television Chairman 'Abd-al-Salam al-Nadi has approved a new program on Channel 2 called "Muslims in the World." Program presenter Salah Hatim says it is a news program intended to give the facts about Islam, which "has recently been very unfairly treated by foreign media."

BALKANS 'ALLAMAH INTERVIEWED

The paper carries on page 20 an interview with Shaykh Tufiq Islam Yahja, chief Muslim Scholar in the Balkans, [name and title as published], an Albanian from Kosovo who was educated at al-Azhar and worked for many years in Egypt and other Arab countries. Most of the interview, which is unattributed, is devoted to the history of the Bosnian people following their migration from their original central Asian homeland along with the Serbs and the Croats, their pre-Islamic, pre-Ottoman religion of Bogomilism, and their usual independence of Serb rule apart from a very brief period. He says the Catholic and Orthodox Churches' hostility to them as Christian heretics continued after they converted to Islam under Ottoman rule and now "the EU and the world community have given the green light for the extermination of the Muslims."

He adds: "The European conspiracy against Islam is still being played out amid Muslim heedlessness, division, and lack of succor for us. But the future belongs to Islam and to Muslims, not merely in the Balkans but in all Europe, God willing."

MUSLIMS IN AMERICA, ITALY

A 300-word article on page 20, written by Washington-based 'Adil Dayf and entitled "The Muslims in America," claims Muslims in the United States are "poor people in an affluent society." The writer urges the Muslim world to assist them financially, noting that Washington's Islamic Center, which usually helps these poor Muslims, needs funds and receives money only from Saudi Arabia.

A 450-word unattributed report on page 21 views the rising numbers of Muslims in Italy, mostly North African immigrants, but also some 10,000 Italians converts. The article highlights that Islam has become the second religion in Italy, with 400,000 adherents.

Political Islam Review: 'AQIDATI 5 Jul

NC1007191094

[Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 5 July issue of the Arabic-language newspaper Cairo 'AQIDATI that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Editorial on Jerusalem
2. Clampdown on Video Games
3. Writing Competition on Islamic Solution
4. Veiled Criticism of Sudanese Regime
5. Old Cairo Mosques Used as Drug Links

6. British Ambassador Visits al-Azhar College
7. Report on Muslims in Britain
8. 'Arafat's Call for Release of Hamas Leader Praised

EDITORIAL ON JERUSALEM

A 400-word front-page editorial by Samir Rajab stresses that "Jerusalem will return to its owners" despite Israel's claims that Jerusalem is its unified capital. In the long run, Israel will not be able to uphold these claims or the "whole peace process will be in jeopardy." Were such a thing to happen, Israel would lose a great deal. The editorial goes on to say that "Jerusalem does not concern only the Palestinians but all the Muslims." Accordingly, if the Muslims persist in demanding their rights, Jerusalem "will return to them sooner or later." The editorial emphasizes that Jerusalem's return to the Muslims requires "Islamic unity in thought, action, and method." The editorial notes that "despite its objections and reservations, Israel is prepared to discuss the subject of Jerusalem at the negotiating table." Israel does not give back anything easily, unless it faces persistence and pressure by the Muslims all over the world collectively and not as separate groups.

CLAMPDOWN ON VIDEO GAMES

A 200-word report on page 1 says the governors of Cairo and al-Jizah "have declared war on video games." Cairo Governor 'Umar 'Abd-al-Akhir said that the video and billiard games represent a "major moral problem" because they are used for gambling and lead to the deviation of the youth. He called for quick action to close the amusement arcades where these games are played. Meanwhile, al-Jizah Governor Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahim Shihatah has issued a decision banning these amusement arcades, except in tourist clubs and places run by the Ministry of Tourism.

Picking up on this subject, a 400-word column by Majdi Salim on page 10 draws attention to "the danger surrounding our youth as result of the greed of some people and their desire for quick profit." It says that "at last, the officials have realized the danger posed by the video game machines and billiards and have declared war on them." What is certain is that this will be a "violent war" between those who want to defend the public interest and protect the youth and those who are after a quick profit. Noting that these amusement arcades have spread both in upper-class and poorer neighborhoods, the writer attributes this to the fact that the youth are deprived of decent entertainment and suffer from "great neglect on all levels." This has created a "horrible vacuum" prompting our youth to frequent these places.

WRITING COMPETITION ON ISLAMIC SOLUTION

On page 3, the newspaper carries a 750-word report which describes a ceremony held to award prizes to participants in a writing competition on two topics. The first topic is entitled "Islam Is the Solution, But How?" The second topic is entitled "The Nascent Islamic Republics, Present and Future." Some 51 researchers participated in the competition, including university professors, thinkers, doctors, and students. The ceremony was attended, among others, by Shaykh Muhammad al-Ghazali and Mufti of the Republic Muhammad Sayyid Tantawi.

Addressing the ceremony, Shaykh al-Ghazali said "the Islamic religion is based on analytical thinking. The early Muslims knew God from analytical thinking and from the messages that descended to his messengers and prophets." He added that "the Muslims' current neglect of analytical thinking is the reason for their backwardness in science and technology." Al-Ghazali says the Koran was a "great miracle." It teaches the Muslims to use their minds.

Regarding the first topic, "Islam Is the Solution, But How?" the first prize was won by well-known Islamic thinker Dr. Muhammad 'Amarah. Addressing the ceremony, 'Amarah said: "The Islamic solution is superior to other solutions in many fields, including mental pluralism, judgment, reasoning, political and social system, public freedoms, affiliation, minority issues, foreign policy, and jihad." He describes "Islamic jihad" as the "fortress" defending the Islamic system, world, and nation from religious sedition and strife.

The second prize was won by al-Azhar Professor Dr. Ibrahim Sulayman 'Isa. Addressing the ceremony, he said the "Islamic solution represented by Islam with its virtues is the best medicine for treating the ills of mankind. There is no salvation for mankind from disasters, diseases, and problems unless the Islamic religion is adopted as an alternative solution. There is no dignity and no life for Muslims without Islam." Dr. 'Isa explained that "the application of Islamic rule in old times produced prosperity, development, security and stability." However, there are reasons for the nonsuccess of the slogan "Islam is the solution" at present. These include "the Arab regimes' panic at this slogan," and their "ignorance of the essence of Islam and how to link the past with the present." In addition, "those who lust for power and money are competing with true Islamists in raising this slogan."

Regarding the second topic "The Nascent Islamic Republics, Present and Future," language teacher Muna 'Abd-al-Fattah Yunis reviewed her research. She explained "the importance of these republics from the economic, strategic, political, and historical points of view." Another researcher, Ahmad al-Suri, called on the Arab countries to offer aid to these Islamic republics. He "blamed the Islamic countries—except Egypt and Saudi Arabia—for their belated recognition of these republics and for not having opened embassies in these republics so far."

VEILED CRITICISM OF SUDANESE REGIME

An unattributed 70-word report on page 10 carries a veiled criticism of the Sudanese Government for its arrest of former Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi. The report says the arrest of al-Mahdi is a "grave mistake." Preventing lawyers and his relatives from visiting and depriving him of food and clean clothes is a "crime." All this is being done by "a regime that claims it upholds Islam and applies the shari'ah." "All this is part of a campaign to besmirch Islam and to distort the shari'ah at the hands of Muslims."

OLD CAIRO MOSQUES USED AS DRUG LINKS

On page 1, the newspaper carries 100-word report which says that some old Cairo mosques from the Fatimide era have become drug links and shelters for outlaws. The paper notes that these mosques have fallen into disrepair and that the promises of the Ministry of Culture to repair and renovate them have remained ink on paper. On pages 12 and 13, the newspaper carries a fuller report with pictures of the derelict mosques and narcotics bottles and bags.

BRITISH AMBASSADOR VISITS AL-AZHAR COLLEGE

A 400-word report on page 17 says British Ambassador Christopher Long has praised the education of women at al-Azhar University. The ambassador visited the Human Studies College for women at the invitation of history professor Dr. Fathiyah al-Nabrawi. The ambassador explained that the British Embassy will open a fair at al-Azhar University in October on the activity of Muslims in Britain. The fair will include pictures and books on the history of Islam's entry to Britain and the embracement by many Britons of Islam, noting that the number of Muslims in Britain has reached 3 million people.

REPORT ON MUSLIMS IN BRITAIN

On page 20, the newspaper carries 1,000 word-report by Basyuni al-Halawni on the plight of Muslims in Britain. In his report, al-Halawani says that "despite the great efforts made by scholars from Egypt and some Islamic countries to promote Islamic activity in Western societies, the general image of Islam is still dismal." "Western media continue their plans and unfair campaigns to besmirch everything Islamic and to stem the Islamic surge in the West, a phenomenon that besets the Western governments." Al-Halawni adds that the "West's confrontation of Islam is not a figment of the imagination or a mere illusion." "The confrontation is real and is embodied in clear statements by several Western officials and in constant campaigns by the Western media." "The Muslims in Britain are still speaking about the serious report published in the British TIMES a few months ago on Muslims in Western countries. The TIMES warned against the increasing numbers of Muslims and urged the Western governments to adopt a firm stand to stop this phenomenon."

The report then says that the number of Muslims in Britain is estimated between 1.5 and 2.5 million people, 10 percent of whom are Britons. There are over 1,200 mosques and the number is continually increasing. The Islamic communities are trying to "prove their presence" by building more mosques and schools. The report then praises Egypt's role in promoting Islamic activity in Britain. It says the Islamic Center in London has Egyptian roots. Egyptian scholars and preachers are playing a key role in promoting this center. "Without exaggerating, it can be said that were it not for Egyptian scholars from al-Azhar and al-Awqaf Ministry, work at the center would stop." Historical facts prove that Egypt was behind the allocation of the plot of land for the center and its contacts and political pressure were behind the establishment of many places of worship for the Muslims in Britain.

'ARAFAT'S CALL FOR RELEASE OF HAMAS LEADER PRAISED

A 500-word report on 21 praises 'Arafat's "gesture" during his 1 July speech in Gaza. 'Arafat affirmed that he will work for the release of all political prisoners and detainees, above all Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, founder of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas. The report says Shaykh Ahmad Yasin played a key role with the PLO in igniting and continuing the "intifadah, without which 'Arafat would not have been able to enter Gaza on 1 July." The report notes that Israel has failed in its attempts to precipitate a "civil war" in Gaza between Hamas and the PLO.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Visits Saudi Arabia, Meets With King

Meeting Previewed

NC0807195794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1945 GMT 8 Jul 94

[Text] Tunis, 8 Jul (MENA)—Informed Palestinian sources have stated that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat will visit Saudi Arabia in the next few hours—perhaps tonight—for a meeting with King Fahd.

The sources said 'Arafat will discuss with King Fahd whether Saudi Arabia can give quick financial aid for the Palestinian National Authority in the Gaza Strip and Jericho so that it can pay the salaries of employees and policemen and start rebuilding the infrastructure in the autonomous region.

The sources said 'Arafat's visit to Saudi Arabia might last until Sunday [10 July], when he will return to Tunis.

An official farewell party will be held for 'Arafat on the occasion of his return to Palestine. 'Arafat is expected to leave Tunis for good after the farewell party, which will be hosted by Tunisian President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali. The farewell party will be attended by Tunisian ministers and senior officials and the members of the Arab and foreign diplomatic corps in Tunis.

'Arafat Leaves Tunisia

LD0907164094 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 9 Jul 94

[Text] President Yasir 'Arafat left Tunisia today for a short visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, during which he will perform the rites of the minor pilgrimage and meet the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz.

Palestinian sources said that President 'Arafat's talks with the Saudi monarch will basically deal with Saudi financial aid to the Palestinian National Authority.

The Palestinian president is scheduled to return to Tunisia tomorrow to attend a farewell party on Monday [11 July] at the headquarters of the Palestinian command in Tunisia, which he will finally leave on that day to settle in the Palestinian self-rule area in Gaza and Jericho.

'Arafat Arrives in Jeddah

LD0907172194 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1647 GMT 9 Jul 94

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 9 Jul (SPA)—His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee arrived in Jeddah today on a visit to the kingdom.

He was welcomed at King 'Abd-al-'Aziz International Airport by Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation and inspector general, Prince Majid Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, governor of the Mecca region, and Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister. [passage omitted]

Sha'th Says Visit Successful

NC1007173594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1650 GMT 10 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 10 Jul (MENA)—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation in the Palestinian self-rule authority, arrived in Cairo this evening from Gaza. Upon arrival, Dr. Sha'th stated that Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Saudi Arabia was successful and helped straighten out Saudi-Palestinian relations.

Dr. Sha'th added that Saudi King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz had voiced readiness to do everything possible to develop Jerusalem and preserve its Arabism and the Islamic sites there, chief among them being the al-Aqsa Mosque. King Fahd advanced the idea of establishing a major Islamic cultural project in Gaza to symbolize Saudi-Palestinian fraternity, he added. The king noted that Saudi Arabia will support the political and economic position of the Palestinian Authority and will back it with the donor states and the World Bank to help accelerate the delivery of the necessary aid.

On the Palestinian-Israeli talks to be resumed in Cairo tomorrow, Dr. Sha'th said that he will lead the Palestinian side to these talks. The talks will focus on the outstanding issues of the Gaza-Jericho Agreement, including the release of the remaining prisoners and detainees, particularly Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leader Shaykh Ahmad Yasin; and the remaining security issues, such as the security passage, the area of Jericho, and the crossing points, he added.

He added that another committee will discuss the transfer of the civilian powers in the West Bank to the Palestinian Authority. Other subcommittees, such as the election subcommittee and the legal subcommittee, could branch out from this committee. He noted that if the negotiations succeed, a drafting committee on the final agreement will be formed.

Sha'th noted that two committees will resume their meetings. The first is the Quadripartite Committee comprising Egypt, Jordan, Israel, and Palestine, which will discuss the return of the Palestinians displaced after 1967; and the second is the Palestinian-Israeli Economic Committee.

'Arafat on Visit, Gaza Conditions

NC1107091994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0830 GMT 11 Jul 94

[Text] Tunis, 11 Jul (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has praised the stances of Egypt and President Husni Mubarak in support of the Palestinian cause. He said that President Mubarak's accompanying him to the last Egyptian point in the direction of Palestine, from Egyptian Rafah to Palestinian Rafah, was a brotherly, principled, and pan-Arab touch of a high standard.

In a meeting last night with Tunisian journalists and correspondents from Arab and foreign news agencies in Tunis, 'Arafat added that Mubarak's action is a continuation of Egypt's constant stance beside the Palestinian people and their cause.

'Arafat said: This blessed effort by President Mubarak has enabled us to achieve everything we have achieved to date.

'Arafat affirmed that his permanent residence will be in the land of Palestine. He will have no other headquarters, in al-'Arish or Tunis, as has recently been reported. But, he said, he considers every Arab country his second homeland.

'Arafat said his visit to Saudi Arabia was very successful and his meeting with King Fahd sincere, cordial, warm, and fruitful. He added that the most important point was to confirm the Saudi stance in support of the Palestinian stance on every level.

On the situation of the PLO and its role after the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] is established in Gaza and Jericho, 'Arafat said the PLO is the legislative and political reference for the PNA.

'Arafat, answering a question on the possibility of a meeting between King Husayn of Jordan and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, said he is not following this issue but wishes his brothers in Jordan success on the Jordanian-Israeli track.

On the aid the donor countries have pledged to the Palestinians, 'Arafat said: Unfortunately there have been many promises but little has been implemented. He pointed out that this puts the Palestinian stance and the PNA in front of a big crisis.

Asked about the Israeli authorities closing off the Gaza Strip as of today, 'Arafat added: We expect to encounter many obstacles in our way and this is one of them. I am in contact with the Palestinian officials and officers in the Gaza Strip so that they can contact the Israelis and ask them to cancel this decision. The issue of the Palestinian laborers is an important one. Many Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, over 60 percent of them, are unemployed.

The Palestinian president said he has a full program when he returns to the Gaza Strip, especially as the Palestinian infrastructure was destroyed during the occupation. We have a great deal to do on every level, he noted.

The Palestinian president said: Our people are living under very bad economic conditions, with the threat of famine looming.

He added: We have great responsibilities with regard to handling this problem but the international community also bears great responsibilities toward this situation. The occupation forces violated every international treaty and law in the occupied territories and destroyed the infrastructure.

'Arafat affirmed that there are international moral, economic, political, and other forms of responsibility toward the Palestinian people. He said we expect our friends around the world and peacelovers to help the Palestinian people, because if suffering increases, peace will be endangered. The peace of the brave needs international support on every level.

'Arafat said that holding elections in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip is a major issue. It was discussed during the recent meeting between him and Rabin in Paris. Agreement was reached to form a special committee to discuss this subject in Cairo beginning today in addition to other topics that will be discussed. 'Arafat also affirmed that elections represent a basic issue for the Palestinians. He said: We have sent Palestinian teams to our European friends to receive training in elections. Contacts were held with former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, who promised to help in this regard.

'Arafat said: Our overall plan rests on democracy and pluralism. He said a Tunisian delegation would accompany him on his return today to Gaza. He said he will stop over in Cairo for several hours and will take his wife, Suha 'Arafat, to Gaza with him.

Concerning speculation about a possible visit by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to Gaza soon, 'Arafat said: "We will be waiting for him."

'Arafat emphasized that he will remain in Gaza, that his recent journey there was not simply a visit, but a return to sacred Palestine, and that for the first time Palestinians are not traveling as refugees.

He pointed out that the Palestinian Authority is facing numerous problems and challenges, particularly in anything connected with the infrastructure of Gaza and Jericho.

He declared: We will begin from scratch in every field. There have been many promises but little has been done.

'Arafat said that many contacts have been made with the Hamas Movement through various channels and that Ahmad Harbi, a prominent Hamas official, issued a positive statement two days ago. 'Arafat remarked: We are in touch with all the Palestinian opposition factions. We respect them.

'Arafat declared that the PLO will remain in Tunis and explained that the Israeli-Palestinian Agreement states that the PLO will continue to represent the PNA abroad and that international organizations and foreign states have the right to establish political representative offices in Gaza and the West Bank. He reported that the PNA has received numerous requests from many countries to open such offices.

'Arafat said that during their meeting in Paris last Wednesday [6 July], French President Francois Mitterrand promised him to submit the case of the foreign aid needed by the PNA to the G-7 meeting and that he fulfilled his promise, as demonstrated by the reference to this issue in the statement issued by the major industrial nations.

'Arafat said he will complete the makeup of the PNA council very soon.

Asked if the Fatah Movement will become a political party, 'Arafat remarked that Fatah is the movement of the entire Palestinian people.

'Arafat To Leave Tunisia for New Home in Gaza Strip

NC0807205794 Paris AFP in English 2013 GMT 8 Jul 94

[Text] Tunis, July 8 (AFP)—PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat will leave Tunisia for the last time Monday [11 July] after 12 years in exile here, informed Tunisian sources said Friday [8 July].

'Arafat will leave Tunis—the site of the Palestine Liberation Organisation administration in exile—Monday afternoon following a farewell ceremony given by Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, the sources said.

'Arafat is to settle in the newly-autonomous territories as head of the Palestinian authority charged with running the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho.

Key PLO Figures To Remain

NC1007145794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1330 GMT 10 Jul 94

[Excerpt] Tunis, 10 Jul (MENA)—Palestinian President and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and most members of the Palestinian leadership will leave Tunis Monday 11 July for the headquarters of the self-rule authority in Gaza and Jericho. Before their departure, they will be accorded an official farewell ceremony that will be led by Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and Arab and foreign ambassadors.

'Arafat and members of the Palestinian leadership have spent 12 years in Tunis in a state of political struggle to regain the territories. He will be moving to the self-rule area in Gaza and Jericho, the first step toward the establishment of a Palestinian state, to begin another stage of political struggle on part of the Palestinian territories to complete the establishment of an independent state with Jerusalem as its capital.

MENA correspondent in Tunis Muhammad Sayf reports that while 'Arafat will return to Gaza tomorrow to assume full responsibility for the Palestinian people in the self-rule areas, he will miss a number of struggle comrades and Fatah founders. Some of them were martyred, like Abu-Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], Abu-Iyad [Salah Khalaf], and Abu-al-Hawl [Hayil 'Abd-al-Hamid]. Some others, because of their opposition to the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, decided to stay behind, such as Faruq Qaddumi, who will head the PLO's Political Department from abroad; Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], head of the Pan-Arab Department, who preferred to stay in Tunis to follow up the negotiations for the final stage. Abu-Mahir, official in charge of Fatah abroad; and Major General Muhammad Jihad, who was responsible for the Palestinian military action in the occupied territories, will reside in Damascus, thus distancing themselves from Fatah because of their opposition to the Cairo Agreement.

Palestinians in Tunis, obliged to leave the country not later than the end of this month, have hastened to sell their property for any price they could get. Two hundred PLO cadres left for Gaza and Jericho at the end of June, while 400 others are awaiting 'Arafat's instructions to stay or leave. A Saudi plane is expected to arrive in Tunis today or tomorrow to take 180 cadres to al-'Arish en route to Gaza. The remaining cadres will have to wait for 'Arafat's orders. [passage omitted]

Return Delayed Until 12 Jul

TA0907114294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 9 Jul 94

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat has put off his return to the Gaza Strip until Tuesday [12 July], Palestinian sources told our correspondent Moti Amir. They said 'Arafat has left Tunis for Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states to recruit funds for the autonomy, and when he completes his mission he will return to the Strip.

'Arafat Expected in Amman Within 48 Hours

JN1107081994 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 11 Jul 94 pp 1, 19

[Report by Nasir 'Arif]

[Excerpt] Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat is expected in Amman within the next 48 hours for intensive talks with Jordanian officials prior to his final return to the self-rule areas.

Palestinian sources said President 'Arafat will visit Jordan after an official farewell ceremony has been accorded to him at Carthage Palace in Tunis in the presence of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. A large number of Palestinian officials, including National Authority members Ahmad Quray', known as Abu-'Ala', and Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, will accompany 'Arafat.

Palestinian sources in Amman said the signing of a joint economic cooperation program worked out by the Jordanian-Palestinian economic committee in May will be on the agenda of the talks, which will also deal with future relations between the self-rule areas and Jordan as well as the latest developments of the peace process.

The sources said the signing of the economic cooperation program will greatly contribute to providing the required practical atmosphere to begin a new phase of economic cooperation on clear bases that will boost the Jordanian and Palestinian economy. [passage omitted]

'Arafat Acts Against Murder of Collaborator Families

TA0807140394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 8 Jul 94

[Text] In order to prevent the murder of collaborators' families, Yasir 'Arafat has ordered the confiscation of weapons belonging to Palestinians who have murdered suspected collaborators. The decision was made in a meeting between 'Arafat and Fatah leaders in the Gaza Strip at the beginning of the week.

'Arafat Discusses Gaza Situation at News Conference

LD1107085194 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 11 Jul 94

[Text] At a news conference held in Tunis last night, President Yasir 'Arafat indicated that he had a very heavy schedule for Gaza where, he said, there is a near-famine situation. He added that the infrastructure in Gaza had been totally destroyed and that unemployment affected 58 percent of the population. He announced that he had contacted his officers in the Gaza

Strip to obtain the lifting of the blockade imposed on the area. The 24-hour blockade, which prevents Palestinian workers from entering Israel as from today, was decided by the Israeli Army yesterday following demonstrations by Palestinian workers.

President 'Arafat said: We were expecting some obstructions from the Israelis but we will try to overcome them. In this respect, he renewed the call for firming up the international aid for the Palestinians without which, he said, the peace of the brave will be threatened. He added that only a few pledges had been honored, and that such a situation put the Palestinian Authority at a serious impasse. He also stressed that the issue of free and multiparty elections had been included in his agenda, and that he had personally contacted Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter to ask him for his contribution to ensure the success of these elections which he described as essential. However, 'Arafat did not talk about the date of the elections for the Self-Rule Council mentioned in the Palestinian-Israeli agreements and due to be held this coming autumn.

President 'Arafat pointed out that all the structures of the Palestine Liberation Organization would be moved to the self-rule areas, apart from the Political Department in charge of foreign relations which will stay in Tunis.

President 'Arafat also talked about the Jordanian-Israeli peace process and said that he did not know how that process was developing. He added that he hoped the two sides would succeed in resuming their talks. In reply to a question on the expected meeting between King Husayn and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, he said that he was not occupied with this matter but that he wished all the success to the Jordanian brethren.

'Arafat on Return to 'Palestine,' Autonomy's Future

AU1107143094 Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German 11 Jul 94 pp 116-117

[Interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by unidentified DER SPIEGEL correspondent; place and date not given: "The Train Has Pulled Out"]

[Text] [DER SPIEGEL] When you crossed the border after 27 years of exile did you feel that your goal in life, a Palestinian state, will soon be achieved?

['Arafat] I simply felt the joy of someone who is coming home. Notwithstanding all adversities, I always was firmly convinced that I would return home someday.

[DER SPIEGEL] On what is your confidence based? You have been hunted for more than a quarter of a century.

['Arafat] My confidence is based on the belief in the lawfulness of our concern and the Palestinians' determination. I do not know anyone who ever doubted his return to the beloved homeland.

[DER SPIEGEL] In the first place, you only came to your hometown of Gaza and to Jericho. Your country has not yet been freed.

['Arafat] I was born and grew up in Jerusalem, where my mother comes from, but the home of my father's family is Gaza; in addition, I also have relatives in Nabbus and elsewhere in Palestine. Although I have only been in the country for a short time, I already feel firmly rooted again in Palestine.

[DER SPIEGEL] This possibility is still denied to others. There are still 4,500 Palestinian prisoners in Israeli prisons.

['Arafat] Of course, I would have wished that these prisoners had been released long ago. However, should I have denied myself my return and let the Palestinians feel doubtful about me? The autonomy agreement requires the speedy release of the prisoners.

[DER SPIEGEL] Israel wants to continue to detain those who, like Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, radical head of the Hamas resistance movement, are not prepared to forego violence.

['Arafat] Shaykh Yasin and all others have to be released without ifs and buts—we agreed on that. I hope very much that Israel will not break its word.

[DER SPIEGEL] So far, Israel has only withdrawn from about 90 percent of overpopulated Gaza Strip and the small town of Jericho. When will the West Bank be handed over to you?

['Arafat] According to the wording of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, the Israeli troops would have to withdraw from the centers of the Palestinian population by 13 July. However, since the application of the whole set of agreements has been delayed anyway, it might take one month at the most.

[DER SPIEGEL] Nevertheless, so far it is still unclear what sovereignty rights Israel will transfer to the PLO in the West Bank.

['Arafat] We have a clear text of the treaty, which binds Israel. The agreement between Palestinians and Israelis, this peace of the brave, is internationally anchored and secured. Israel has to grant us clearly defined sovereignty rights in the West Bank—as early as in the next few days. I know what I am saying.

[DER SPIEGEL] In the autonomy government that you swore in, exiled functionaries are in the majority. Are there tensions between those returning home and those who struggled on the spot?

['Arafat] All government members have know each other for a long time and are cooperating closely. After all, the contacts between the PLO headquarters in Tunis and Palestine were never interrupted. Every day, I received visitors from the occupied territories and we regularly sent emissaries home. No, we are really no strangers here.

[DER SPIEGEL] The people expect a speedy improvement in their living conditions. However, the autonomy government does not have enough money. Will the rejoicing soon change into disappointment?

['Arafat] Apart from crumbs, we have not got any money despite all the promises for nine months—not a single project has been launched.

[DER SPIEGEL] The donor countries want to have an insight into the Palestinian financial planning.

['Arafat] We do not have anything to hide. However, we are confronted with a carefully directed sabotage of peace. If the relief funds do not come, the peace process will be in danger of being killed.

[DER SPIEGEL] How do you want to persuade the prosperous Gulf monarchies and other Arab states to help you generously?

['Arafat] I appealed to all not to be sparing with their support for the Palestinian people. I have not abandoned hope.

[DER SPIEGEL] And what if you are disappointed in your hope?

['Arafat] The train has pulled out, it cannot roll back. Therefore, despite all the burning problems, we are concentrating on the next stage, for example the general elections.

[DER SPIEGEL] Will they take place at all?

['Arafat] Undoubtedly before the end of this year. The free decision of the people is indispensable. I myself will not run as the chief of a group or a party politician, but I would be glad if the voters accepted me as the father of the Palestinian family.

[DER SPIEGEL] The radical Islamic organization, Hamas, wants to kill the autonomy agreement negotiated by the PLO and Israel and to boycott the elections.

['Arafat] Did you not see the crowds who received me? Was this not already a referendum for Yasir 'Arafat's peace policy?

[DER SPIEGEL] Do you not take the opposition's resistance seriously?

['Arafat] In the past we had to deal with opposition under conditions that were often far more difficult. Moreover, opposition belongs to the democratic principle to which we always bowed and to which we will also bow in the future. Hamas and other oppositional parties have a right to the free expression of opinion. It remains to be seen whether Hamas will really not face the voters when things become critical.

[DER SPIEGEL] When will Yasir 'Arafat pray in the al-'Aqsa Mosque in Arab East Jerusalem?

['Arafat] Rather soon. As a devout Muslim, I have a right to it.

Al-Husayni on Paris Meeting; Elections 15 Oct

NC1007062694 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 10 Jul 94

[Telephone interview with Palestinian National Authority member Faysal al-Husayni in Jerusalem, by Ramadan Husayn in Cairo; date not given; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[Text] [Husayn] What were the important issues discussed at the Paris meeting [between PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin]?

[Al-Husayni] These talks primarily focused on issues left unresolved during the first stage, such as the issue of detainees, the release of the remaining 5,000 detainees, and the release of women, since none of them have been released. The discussions also dealt with issues such as operations on the bridges and the crossing point in Rafah so as to achieve a Palestinian presence in these areas as the agreement stipulated. Other similar issues were also discussed. Agreement was reached to form committees to follow up these issues and complete them quickly. The most important issue discussed was that of the elections and preparations for them, including the deployment of the Israeli forces and their withdrawal from the populated areas.

[Husayn] Faysal al-Husayni, was an agreement reached on a date for these elections in the Palestinian self-rule areas?

[Al-Husayni] Yes. We proposed 15 October for holding these elections.

[Husayn] What was the Israeli side's reaction?

[Al-Husayni] The Israeli side hesitated but we believe we can achieve this task with more work.

[Husayn] Regarding the transfer of authority to the Palestinian side in the remaining parts of the West Bank, when will agreement on this be concluded?

[Al-Husayni] This will be discussed in the negotiations. There are five spheres we are supposed to take over automatically and immediately without any need for negotiation. We need only discuss the mechanism for taking over these spheres. We need to take over many more spheres of authority, because it is not logical to hold elections while the Israelis continue to control affairs.

[Husayn] Regarding the talks that will start in Cairo on Monday [11 July], what are the other issues that you will discuss with the Israeli side?

[Al-Husayni] Completing the agreement and the transfer of authority, the issue of detainees, achieving that which was agreed and on which the Israelis promised to act within a specific period; regrettably, it has been delayed. We must make up for lost time.

[Husayn] You did not take the constitutional oath before Palestinian president 'Arafat in Jericho? Why?

[Al-Husayni] I believe I have a mission in Jerusalem that is part of the negotiations as a whole. Gaza and Jericho form one component of the negotiating process. My role is in the political process as a whole. This is why I will continue my work from Orient House in Jerusalem to reach the last stage of negotiations, including the issue of Jerusalem itself.

[Husayn] How do you assess recent Israeli statements on the Jerusalem issue?

[Al-Husayni] The Israelis are trying as hard as they can to make the negotiations futile.

[Husayn] The Palestinian refugee issue remains very important. I believe meetings will be held soon to discuss it. What do you expect for these refugees?

[Al-Husayni] You know, perhaps there are two issues, one pertaining to the displaced [who left in 1967] and the other to the refugees [of 1948]. As for the displaced, this issue will be discussed with the countries hosting the largest number of them, namely Egypt and Jordan. The refugee issue will be discussed during the final status negotiations. Discussions will then tackle the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 194, which calls for the right of return or compensation.

[Husayn] I believe another important issue is connected with the international financial aid the donor countries have agreed to extend to the autonomous Palestinian areas of Gaza and Jericho. What can you tell us about the status of this aid? Will the Palestinians rely on it? What will your reaction be if the aid is delayed?

[Al-Husayni] The plan originally called for significant reliance on this money. Regrettably, the World Bank and the donor countries are placing tremendous complications and hindrances in the path of utilizing these funds; this is creating major confusion. If this confusion persists the entire process will be threatened.

[Husayn] Many Palestinian economists, notably the eminent economist Samir Hulaylah, attach great importance to investment by the Palestinian private sector to develop the autonomy areas. What do you think?

[Al-Husayni] Yes, I believe this is a very important and basic issue. It is not reasonable for us to continue relying on foreign aid. We must stand on our own two feet and develop economic independence. You know that there is no total economic independence anywhere; there is a circle of interdependence. But we must have our own independent status through which we can perform transactions. I believe we have the ability to encourage not only Palestinian investment, but also Arab and international investment to make this area prosperous and give Palestine an important regional role. Now we need to strengthen our governmental departments and this cannot be done by private investment. We need international cooperation for this.

[Husayn] How do you see ties between the autonomy areas and both Egypt and Jordan?

[Al-Husayni] I believe there will be much regional cooperation. Doubtless, Egypt and Jordan will be the lungs through which Palestine breathes. These ties must be developed and coordination must be carried out on a higher level until we reach the full regional cooperation that will create a new atmosphere and a new future throughout the Middle East, not merely in these three countries.

[Husayn] Thank you very much. You will always be welcome on the Voice of the Arabs.

[Al-Husayni] Thank you.

Secret PLO-Israeli Talks Held on Israeli MIA's

NC1007155494 Paris AFP in English 1512 GMT 10 Jul 94

[Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, July 10 (AFP)—Israel and the PLO have held a series of secret meetings over the six Jewish soldiers missing in action in Lebanon, a senior Palestinian official told AFP on Sunday [10 July].

"Negotiations have been going on over the return of Israeli bodies from Lebanon and how the PLO can assist," said the official, who refused to be named.

"In return for PLO aid we want Israel to release the Palestinian women in Israeli jails," he said.

The talks were held at the Erez checkpoint into the Gaza Strip and were expected to continue.

According to the Gaza Centre for Human Rights as of the end of June Israel held 37 Palestinian women from occupied territories.

Last December, the PLO handed over a name tag from one of three Israeli soldiers who disappeared during the battle of Sultan Yacub on June 11, 1982.

Rabin hailed the gesture as positive and significant, but said he was awaiting news of the fate of the other two.

The PLO has publicly pledged to do its best to help locate remains of MIAs but admitted gaining reliable information is extremely difficult after so many years.

Two other men went missing in February 1986 when they were ambushed in the "security zone" Israel occupies in southern Lebanon.

The sixth, navigator Ron Arad, was captured after being shot down over Lebanon in October 1986.

Arad is the only one Israel believes could still be alive.

The remains of an Israeli-Druze soldier who had been captured in Lebanon in April 1983 by the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine were returned to Israel in September 1991.

Groups Claim Responsibility for Actions Against IDF

Martyr Group Claims Kidnapping, Killing

JN0807175694 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1715 GMT 8 Jul 94

[Text] In a telephone call to our radio, an unidentified person who said he is the spokesman for the Holy Ibrahimi Mosque Martyrs [Shuhada' al-Haram al-Ibrahimi al-Sharif] announced that the Ahmad Qasir martyr group claims responsibility for kidnapping and killing the Israeli soldier from Kafr 'Aqab village, as well as the Qiryat Arba' operation. He added: We also have two corpses, one of an Israeli female soldier and another of a male soldier. He recalled a statement issued in the name of the Ibrahimi Mosque martyrs on 25 June calling for the release of all Palestinian detainees in Israel and the lifting of the siege of Jerusalem.

Hamas Claims Killing of Soldier

NC1007141294 Paris AFP in English 1344 GMT 10 Jul 94

[Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, July 10 (AFP)—The Islamic Resistance Movement [Hamas] claimed responsibility on Sunday [10 July] for murdering an Israeli soldier and urged Israel to free all Palestinian prisoners if it wants to halt the killings.

Militants first broadcast the claim over loudspeakers at a mosque in Gaza City and then issued a written statement in the name of the HAMAS armed wing, 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam.

"We claim responsibility for kidnapping last Wednesday [6 July] evening the Israeli soldier and taking his army Galil rifle," al-Qassam said.

"This operation proves to the Rabin government that al-Qassam groups can do what they want.

"If the Rabin government wants to stop this series of kidnappings it should release immediately 7,000 Palestinians who have been kidnapped and put in prison."

The statement called first for the release of three senior fundamentalist figures:

—Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, the ailing HAMAS leader, in jail for murder since May 1989.

—Hizballah leader, Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd, snatched in Lebanon in 1989.

—Mustafa al-Dirani, a senior Shiite Moslem leader kidnapped by Israeli forces in the al-Biqa' valley on May 21.

The body of the 20-year-old Israeli corporal was found Thursday [7 July] in an abandoned Palestinian house near a Jewish settlement north of Jerusalem. He had been stabbed and shot.

The same day Palestinian gunmen opened fire on three Jewish settlers, killing a 17-year-old girl and wounding her father and younger brother near Qiryat Arba' outside Hebron.

No one has claimed responsibility for that shooting, but army chiefs have pointed a finger at HAMAS or the Islamic Jihad, the two Islamic groups leading the fight against the peace process and Israel.

Masked assailants also knifed to death two Palestinians in the West Bank Thursday for allegedly collaborating with the Israeli authorities, Palestinian sources said.

In the Gaza Strip, unidentified gunmen fired at Israeli army positions near the Katif settlement block and the Erez crossing point linking the strip with Israel, but there were no casualties.

The spate of violence ended weeks of calm following the Israeli army's redeployment for autonomy.

'Arafat, Gazans Angered by Murders

TA1007122694 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 10 Jul 94 p 2

[Report by David Regev and 'Abd-al-Salam]

[Text] The recent murders of IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier Arik Frankental and Sarit Frigal have greatly angered the residents of the Gaza Strip.

Senior Palestinian sources in Gaza reported that when Yasir 'Arafat learned of the two murders at the end of the week, and especially about the killing of the girl, he was furious and called it "a despicable act."

Palestinian officials in Gaza preferred not to issue an official reaction to the murders, for fear of harming their relations with Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. Off the record, the officials said that acts of this kind do not contribute to peace.

Meanwhile, Shaykh Ahmad Yasin's family declared that it was opposed to the shaykh's release on the condition that he stay out of the Gaza Strip for 10 years and call on his followers to stop the terror wave.

'Abd-al-Hamid Yasin, the shaykh's son, said yesterday that his father would also reject such a proposal.

Security Officers Arrested After Prisoner Dies

NC0907191794 Paris AFP in English 1859 GMT 9 Jul 94

[Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, July 9 (AFP)—Three Palestinian security officers were arrested today following the suspicious death of a Palestinian prisoner in a Gaza jail, the Palestinian "justice minister" Furayh Abu-Middayn said here.

Farid Hashim Jarbu', 28, a taxi driver from the Rafah refugee camp, was the first prisoner to die since Palestinian authorities took control of jails in the newly autonomous Gaza Strip in early May.

Jarbu' was arrested on June 26 by Palestinian security services, who gave no explanation for the arrest.

Palestinian sources said he was suspected of collaborating with Israeli authorities.

His family was told Thursday [7 July] he had died following a heart attack. But his father told AFP that Jarbu's body was "horribly marked by many blows and wounds."

Abu-Middayn said: "We intend to uncover the whole truth of this matter."

A Palestinian human rights group called Saturday for prisoners' rights to be respected.

"It is intolerable that what happened during the Israeli occupation should repeat itself under Palestinian authority," the Gaza centre for human rights and the law said in a statement.

'Municipal Police Force' Operating in West Bank

TA1007134094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 10 Jul 94

[Text] Palestinian wardens have gone on duty in Ramallah to control traffic and help guard shops in the center of town. They are not armed. They are taking up their new duties under an agreement with the Palestinians to set up what is being called a sort of municipal police force for the West Bank. The warden system has already been tried successfully in other towns such as Janin, Tulkarm, and Hebron.

Hamas Figure Denies Participation in Elections

TA0807171394 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 7 Jul 94 p 2

[By 'Imad al-Ifranji]

[Text] Gaza—Professor Ahmad Bahr, who is close to Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], has emphasized that Hamas will not participate in the self-rule authority or in any elections connected to self-rule, even if they are conditional legislative elections. He pointed out that—as is common knowledge—the Islamists will cooperate with the Palestinian Authority on issues pertaining to daily life that concern the residents, not on issues relating to self-rule and what emanates from it.

He strongly denied a Radio Monte Carlo report, quoting AFP, which cited him as saying that Hamas will participate in the self-rule elections in order to oppose the Oslo agreement from the inside.

Bahr said that participation in self-rule is totally rejected, because self-rule does not respond to the Palestinian people's demands and needs for freedom and independence. He added that the agreement reinforced the legitimacy of the Israeli occupation's presence over Palestinian land, forgot Jerusalem, allowed the continuation of settlement activity, maintained the settlements, and forbade the return of Palestinian refugees.

He explained that the Islamic Movement will participate in legislative elections in which Palestinians from inside the occupied territories and the diaspora participate with the aim of choosing representatives for the Palestinian people, who would then have the final say about self-rule. These elections should have no connection with self-rule or the Oslo agreement.

Bahr said that the Islamists will participate in any elections that serve the Palestinian people and that are not subject to the ceiling of self-rule. He said: We will not participate in elections linked to self-rule even if they are legislative elections with conditions. He added: If the elections that will be held are legislative elections in order to implement the will of the Palestinian people and choose their representatives and leadership, who can act freely and have the right to object to the agreement fundamentally and abrogate it, then the Islamic Movement has the right to participate in the elections to prevent the peddling of the agreement and to foil it in a correct popular and democratic manner.

Bahr noted that any participation by the Islamic Movement in elections connected with the self-rule authority means that Hamas will help to peddle the inauspicious agreement and beautify the occupation's face. This is something that has not and will never happen.

In an interview with AL-QUDS, Bahr affirmed: Despite our position, which rejects infighting and forbids the shedding of a drop of a Palestinian's blood by his Palestinian brother, jihad against the occupation—wherever it may be—will continue, but the methods of resistance and struggle might change.

He said: As long as there is occupation, nations have the right to strive and struggle to expel it. As for Radio Monte Carlo's allegation, citing AFP, with regard to attacking joint Palestinian-Israeli patrols, I did not address this nor any other military issue.

AFP had cited Bahr as saying that "Hamas has decided not to attack joint Israeli-Palestinian patrols in the Gaza Strip in order to preserve the lives of our sons, members of the Palestinian police force."

Egypt's Musa Addresses Graduating Diplomats

NC0907164194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1405 GMT 9 Jul 94

[Excerpts] Cairo, 9 Jul (MENA)—Twenty diplomats representing the first group of the Palestinian diplomatic cadres, who studied at the Foreign Ministry's diplomatic institute, were graduated during a ceremony held at the Foreign Ministry today.

The ceremony was attended by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa; Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation in the Palestinian National Authority; and Ambassador Sa'id Kamal, assistant Arab League secretary general for Palestinian affairs. The meeting was also attended by Palestinian Ambassador in Cairo Zuhdi al-Qidrah; Palestinian envoy at the Arab League Muhammad Suhayh; and Diplomatic Institute Director Dr. Mustafa al-Fiqi.

In an address before distributing the diplomas, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said that Palestinian diplomacy is currently moving from a stage of armed and political struggle to a stage of Palestinian identity and the right to self-determination. He said that Palestine is currently passing through a stage that augurs well. We must, therefore, take into account all the Arab, regional, international, and Palestinian circumstances in order to enable the Palestinians to forge ahead with their endeavors and move from one stage to another until they reach the last stage, namely, the final settlement which will establish the right to self-determination and the Palestinian entity, Musa added.

The foreign minister reiterated Egypt's readiness to promote Palestinian endeavors and assist the brothers in Palestine to move from one stage to another. [passage omitted]

Dr. Nabil Sha'th also addressed the graduates. He said: This ceremony comes after President 'Arafat's return to Gaza and Jericho and the historic reception accorded him there. Sha'th stressed that the reception represents a vote in favor of the political line, the peace process, and political leadership. It also confirms the cohesion of the Palestinian people with their leadership, represented by President 'Arafat, the symbol of struggle.

Sha'th praised Egypt's role in supporting the Palestinian people and their endeavors to liberate the Palestinian land. He expressed appreciation for Egypt—president, government, and people—for this leading role.

The Palestinian official said that Egypt's support was embodied in the return of President 'Arafat to Gaza and President Mubarak's insistence on accompanying him to the last border point between Egypt and Palestine. This, Sha'th added, represents the full cohesion between the Egyptian and Palestinian peoples for the sake of the return of the people, authority, and leadership to the Palestinian land.

Radio Transmission Said To Begin Mid-Jul

NC1007161994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1525 GMT 10 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 10 Jul (MENA)—Radwan Abu-'Ayyash, chairman of the Palestine Television and Radio Corporation, arrived in Cairo this afternoon on a four-day visit to Egypt.

In an arrival statement, Abu-'Ayyash said that his talks with the Egyptian Information Ministry officials will focus on the necessary arrangements for the entry of two mobile television vans to Gaza and Jericho via the Rafah crossing point. He added that he will also prepare for the training of some 70 Palestinian cadres by the Egyptian Information Ministry in the field of radio and television.

Abu-'Ayyash stressed that all the engineering equipment will be readied over the next two days for the start of the 19-hour daily transmission of the Palestinian radio as of the middle of July. He said that the six-hour daily transmission of Palestinian television will begin during August. He noted that preparations are currently under way to connect the Gaza Strip and the West Bank with the outside world via satellite.

Radio Given Qol Yisra'el Frequency

TA1107063494 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 11 Jul 94 p 5

[Report by Roni Shaqed]

[Text] The Communications Ministry has appropriated one of Qol Yisra'el's Arabic transmission frequencies for the use of the Palestinian radio station.

The decision on this was reached after Radwan Abu-'Ayyash, the director general of the Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation, complained to Communications Minister Shulamit Aloni that the frequency allotted to the Palestinians was jamming the reception of Ahmad Jibril's Al-Quds Radio, which broadcasts from Syria.

Abu-'Ayyash said that due to the jamming of Al-Quds Radio, the PLO had received threats and sharp protests from the Palestinian opposition, including Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement].

The decision to change the frequency aroused great fury and displeasure at the Qol Yisra'el Arabic offices. "As far as Israel is concerned, this is embarrassing," staffers said, claiming that "Al-Quds Radio, with its venomous propaganda and incitement, which verges on anti-Semitism, will continue to broadcast uninterrupted to residents of the territories. The staffers added that "Radio Palestine, whose broadcasts may also annoy Israel, will broadcast unhindered together with Jibril. Qol Yisra'el Arabic, on the other hand, will lose many of its listeners as well as its transmission capabilities. We have been left with the weakest frequency."

Edmund Sehayek, the director of Qol Yisra'el's Arabic service, said yesterday: "Where else in the world does a radio station get no support at all? In many areas, in Samaria for example, it will be impossible to hear our broadcasts. This is a disaster, simply a disaster."

Officials at Minister Aloni's bureau said yesterday that there was no other frequency to give the Palestinians and there was simply no choice in the matter. "The decision was reached by Minister Aloni within the framework of her authority and following consultations and coordination with security elements," the officials asserted. The Communications Ministry is willing to reduce the damage: "We will publish announcements in the newspapers regarding the change of frequencies."

The Israel Broadcasting Authority is not prepared to concede the matter. Yesterday evening an appeal was submitted to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to cancel the order.

Hamas' Nazzal Comments on 'Arafat's Gaza Visit

NC1007181594 Cairo AL-'ARABI in Arabic 4 Jul 94 p 3

[Text] Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] representative in Jordan Muhammad Nazzal has described Yasir 'Arafat's entry into Gaza as an ordinary event. He added that it was natural to allow 'Arafat to enter Gaza following the concessions he made. In his interview with AL-'ARABI, Nazzal said: We wished that 'Arafat had entered as a conqueror and not as a capitulationist. I asked him over the telephone:

[Zaki] How did Hamas cadres receive the news of the event?

[Nazzal] With indifference.

[Zaki] But the event imposes a new reality with which Hamas has to deal.

[Nazzal] Hamas will not be affected by this situation and, in our view, the Cairo accord bears the seeds of a problem. Hamas proceeds from a concept and a number of principles that it does not relinquish under any circumstances. Hamas' policy on resisting occupation is irreversible because it is strategic, not tactical. We will pursue resistance and Hamas' slogan "From the [Mediterranean] Sea to the [Jordan] River" is valid and has not fallen because Palestine, the Arab Palestinian people's homeland, is still occupied.

[Zaki] In his speech in Gaza, 'Arafat launched an appeal focusing on Palestinian national unity and unifying ranks with Hamas.

[Nazzal] 'Arafat's appeal comes in the context of political one-upmanship and exploitation and an effort to win over people's emotions and we do not view it as a serious, practical speech. 'Arafat focused on the issue of unifying ranks with Hamas because he feels he is suffering from a deadlock and knows there is a great deal of grumbling about the Cairo accord and its repercussions at a basic level, so he played the tune of national unity.

[Zaki] 'Arafat saluted Ahmad Yasin [jailed Hamas leader in Israel] and said, "We will not rest until we see him among us."

[Nazzal] This is also part of the effort to utilize the event politically. 'Arafat wants to appear as representative of all Palestinian people's factions and he knows that Ahmad Yasin has great influence in the Palestinian street and 'Arafat's appeal attracts people's sentiments.

What is more important is that we do not assess the issue through Shaykh Ahmad Yasin because we have thousands of detainees other than Ahmad Yasin. Our paramount cause is Israel's withdrawal from the occupied land.

[Zaki] Have there been previous contacts with 'Arafat over Shaykh Ahmad Yasin?

[Nazzal] No deal has been concluded and no contacts have been made regarding him. Incidentally, Cairo has not seen any contacts in this regard, neither directly nor through a mediator.

[Zaki] 'Arafat said in his speech he has vowed to the martyrs he will pray in Jerusalem, that he will go to Nabulus, Hebron, Tulkarm, Qalqilyah, Ramallah, and Bethlehem, and that he will then pray in Jerusalem. What is your comment?

[Nazzal] 'Arafat means what he says and knows that Rabin will allow him to pray in Jerusalem. But the Jerusalem question has not been raised and is postponed. 'Arafat did not speak about a Palestinian state because he knows that talking about a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital might embarrass Rabin. 'Arafat has given overt and covert pledges to Rabin to avoid any word that might provoke the Israeli opposition. Hence, 'Arafat talked about prayers, not about a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.

[Zaki] But it is known that Jerusalem will be a subject of negotiations during the next stage.

[Nazzal] We are convinced that the Palestinian negotiating team knows well that the issue of Jerusalem has been settled by Israel but they did not mention this so that the agreement could be accepted.

[Zaki] But Israel has not reacted to 'Arafat's speech or to the issue of Jerusalem contained therein.

[Nazzal] You know that Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has denied that 'Arafat's entry represents a prelude to the establishment of a Palestinian state. Peres' words are clear. 'Arafat is seeking to achieve an entity bigger than the self-rule but smaller than the state. And Peres knows that there will be no Palestinian state and that 'Arafat's talk is just part of the speech and of no significance.

[Zaki] Two months ago, Hamas announced its acceptance of a program for a phased and unconditional

Israeli withdrawal, elimination of settlements, and elections. Does this not mean that you have relinquished your theoretical principles in the next stage?

[Nazzal] This talk mixes up the PLO stands with those of Hamas. This program is commensurate with our theoretical constants, which say that the occupation should withdraw from the occupied territories and should leave the people to elect their leadership in freedom. Failing to do that, the resistance will continue. However, the resistance must often take into consideration certain circumstances that do not concern the political line.

[Zaki] What will happen if a clash occurs with the Palestinian self-rule authority?

[Nazzal] We will avoid a clash with any Palestinian side. Nobody is entitled to prevent us or anybody else from resisting the occupation.

[Zaki] What if the Palestinian security service asks you to hand over your weapons as they did before when they banned any calls for parties and the use of the mosques for political activities?

[Nazzal] Nobody has the right to prevent the use of mosques as a staging point for resisting the occupation. We are not concerned with the orders. We will not hand over our fighters' weapons. When the Palestinian security authority called Hamas members killers in reaction to an incident, we condemned this description. But the Palestinian authority is required to take certain measures showing that it rejects Hamas practices, namely halting its military operations against the occupation. We, however, are not concerned with what is required of the Palestinian Authority.

PLO Brigade Leaves Libya 9 Jul

LD0907213394 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 9 Jul 94

[Text] Our guests, The Palestinian al-'Awdah Brigade of the PLO forces, has left the Great Jamahiriyah. The brigade left at the wishes of the PLO following recent developments in the Palestinian political arena.

A ceremony was held on the occasion, attended by representatives of the command of the armed people's staff, some officers of the armed people, and the ambassador of Palestine to the Great Jamahiriyah.

The ambassador of Palestine, brother 'Ali Muhammad Mustafa, delivered a speech in which he praised the role of the great fatih revolution and its persistent support for the Palestinian revolution. He also expressed his appreciation for the constant support offered by the Libyan Arab people to their brother Palestinians in their struggle against the Israeli occupation.

MENA Notes Departure

NC1007151694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1410 GMT 10 Jul 94

[Text] Tripoli, 10 Jul (MENA)—The Palestinian al-'Awdah [return] Brigade left Tripoli today after having been hosted in the Libyan Jamahiriyah at the request of PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

A send-off ceremony was held on the occasion attended by representatives of the Libyan people's armed forces and the Palestine ambassador in Tripoli.

Opposition Figures on Autonomy, Elections

JN0807121194 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 8 Jul 94 p 20

[Text] Amman, London—QUDS PRESS—A Palestinian figure who is opposed to the autonomy agreement has hinted that preliminary moves are under way among Palestinian forces and figures to proclaim a new Palestinian front to confront the autonomy agreement.

Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, former head of the Palestinian negotiating team at the Middle East peace talks with Israel, told QUDS PRESS that he is holding consultations with Dr. Taysir 'Aruri, an official of the Palestinian People's (formerly Communist) Party, and others to discuss the requirements for Palestinian action at this stage.

'Abd-al-Shafi said that "there is talk about a democratic group" but added that the consultations in which leftist Palestinian forces opposed to the autonomy are participating "have so far not crystallized into anything." He stressed that the Palestinian masses must come up with a unified stand to face challenges.

'Abd-al-Shafi, who resigned from the negotiating team in protest against the Declaration of Principles, said that he intends to participate in the autonomy elections "provided that they are legislative elections and not elections for a council to supervise the implementation of the agreement."

'Abd-al-Shafi warned against Israel's intransigence concerning the preservation of the Israeli settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and said: "I do not imagine that the Israelis will abandon their settlements in the final phase of negotiations." 'Abd-al-Shafi added that the presence of the settlers in the West Bank is "interconnected with the Arab presence," thus creating difficulties in implementing the Israeli withdrawal from the remainder of the West Bank. However, 'Abd-al-Shafi said that "the Israelis might soon withdraw from Nabulus, Ramallah, Janin, and Tulkarm, just as they did in Gaza Strip, where they still maintain a presence." 'Abd-al-Shafi added that "we cannot overestimate what has happened" and described the implementation of the autonomy in accordance with the agreement as establishing "Arab cantons under Israeli domination," as he put it.

On another level, Ibrahim Ghawshah, official spokesman of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, has said that his movement "does not consider meetings in Gaza and Jericho (in the wake of the arrival of the Palestinian authority president, Yasir 'Arafat) as a popular vote." In a telephone interview with QUDS PRESS, Ibrahim Ghawshah said that Hamas "supports a free and fair election inside and outside [the Palestinian territories] in order to clarify the stands of the Palestinian people and the map of the political forces and so that the majority and minority are made apparent."

Ibrahim Ghawshah stressed that "the numbers which came out into the streets of Gaza and Jericho did not exceed 30,000 and 5,000 respectively and were not a strong indicator or a show of a majority of support for the autonomy." He said that his movement succeeded in mobilizing greater numbers during popular rallies and that 70,000 Palestinians recently participated in a funeral of a Hamas activist who was killed by the occupied authorities in Gaza. Ibrahim Ghawshah said that "when Shaykh Ahmad Yasin is released, you will be able to compare Yasir 'Arafat's reception with the reception that will be accorded to the Hamas leader, who is currently in an Israeli jail."

Ghawshah renewed his movement's commitment to boycotting any elections in the autonomous areas unless they are legislative elections. He said that Shaykh Ahmad Bahr, a Hamas leader in Gaza, "spoke about legislative elections inside and outside—elections that have nothing to do with the autonomy."

Bahr the day before yesterday said that his movement was prepared to participate in Palestinian elections under certain conditions.

Commenting on press reports and analyses disseminated by certain media on the Hamas Movement's position on the 4 May 1994 agreement and the self-rule authority, a responsible source at the Hamas Movement said the following yesterday:

—The movement reiterates its rejection of the Gaza-Jericho Agreement and all that might result from it. It also reaffirms its rejection of internecine fighting and reserves the right to oppose the agreement on the political and popular levels and with all available means.

—Hamas emphasizes its previous call for legislative elections inside and outside the occupied territories in order to elect real Palestinian representatives and defend the Palestinian people's full rights to their national soil.

The Movement draws attention to the fact that this position has nothing to do with the self-rule elections, which will be held in accordance with the illegitimate Gaza-Jericho accord. In order to enable the Palestinian people to hold real representational elections, occupation should end, settlements should be dismantled, and all the Palestinian people, both in Palestine and the diaspora, should take part in them.

— Hamas reaffirms that it will not participate in the Self-rule Council elections and that this position is nonnegotiable regardless of all offers or mediations.

—The movement adheres to its right to resist occupation wherever it exists. It also calls on the Palestinian authority and police not to restrain or attack the mujahidin because they are defending their people's legitimate right. Regarding the details of the jihad activities, only those official statements issued by the movement or by the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam Battalions, its military wing, will be considered. All other statements conflicting with them will not reflect the movement's opinion.

UK Reportedly To Grant Additional Loan

NC1107103794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0937 GMT 11 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 11 Jul (MENA)—A responsible British diplomatic source at the British Embassy in Cairo has announced that his country has agreed to grant 5 million pounds sterling, around 25 million Egyptian pounds, as aid to the Palestinian National Authority [PNA].

The diplomatic source clarified in a statement he made today that this sum is to support the structures of the Palestinian Administration—including the fiscal and legal organs—provide health care, and reinforce the police.

The source pointed out that this amount is in addition to the 70 million pounds sterling—250 million Egyptian pounds—Britain has decided to give the PNA over the next three years.

It is worth noting that Britain played an important role in urging the European Union to give 500 million European Currency Units, ECU, over the next five years in addition to $50 million for the incidental and starting up expenses of the PNA.

Algeria

FIS Statement on Commanders Meeting

PM0807125094 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 8 Jul 94 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Haddam Stresses Islamists' Unity in 'Armed Group' Framework; Seven Italians Slaughtered in Algeria"]

[Excerpts] Algiers, London, AL-HAYAH—Algeria and Italy have confirmed that seven Italian sailors were killed by slitting their throats in Algeria yesterday in a "terrorist attack" on the ship Lucina, which was unloading semolina at the port of Djendjen, 300 km from the capital. While Anouar Haddam, head of the parliamentary mission of the disbanded Islamic Salvation Front, stressed "uniting mujahidin ranks within the Armed Islamic Group [al-jama'ah] framework." [passage omitted]

Meanwhile Haddam distributed a statement yesterday which says: "From the summits of Algeria's mountains, which are burning with the jihad fire and illuminated by the light of martyrdom, the mujahidin bring glad tidings to the world as a whole about uniting their ranks within a unified framework—the armed Islamic groups [al-jama'at], following the historic 13 May 1994 meeting of field commands of the various jihad groups in Algeria."

The statement added: "In the name of the parliamentary mission abroad, we confirm that the historic meeting did take place, and we bless this gigantic step, which we believe is one of the most important steps toward liberating the Algerian people and achieving their choice represented in the establishment of an Islamic state on their territory—the choice for the sake of which the people have sacrificed their dearest sons."

It went on: "While we welcome this blessed step, we call on the world as a whole to stand against the regime, which has subjected the Algerian people to all kinds of torment: desert concentration camps, torture, and mass murder. And maybe the latest of its arts is spreading terror through death gangs wreaking havoc in the country while the regime continues to deceive the world by giving the impression that it is looking for a peace solution to the Yemeni crisis."

The statement stressed that the regime "has with its tyrannical practices closed all doors to a peaceful solution. This is why the Algerian people have found themselves faced with one choice that guarantees for them survival, a dignified life, and the legitimate right to defend themselves and recover their right to choose their representatives and live like other free peoples.... While facing their predicament, the Algerian people appeal to all free Muslims in the world to support them in their just cause."

FIS Denies Killing Italians

LD0807193694 Rome RAI Due Television Network in Italian 1745 GMT 8 Jul 94

[Text] Responsibility for the massacre of the seven Italian sailors in Algeria has been attributed to Islamic fundamentalists. However, this has been denied by the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS]. Correspondent Salvo Mazzolini interviewed FIS spokesman in Europe, Rabah Kebir, who now lives in Germany:

[Mazzolini] Islamic fundamentalists are not involved in the massacre of the Italians in Algeria. This terrible act has been attributed to FIS in order to discredit it. These are the words of Rabah Kebir, one of the leaders of the FIS and its European spokesman.

Following the coup d'etat in Algiers in 1992 he was imprisoned by the regime. He now lives in exile in Germany. Under the terms of an agreement with the authorities he is forbidden from undertaking any political activity and from making statements. However, the Islamic leader decided to violate the agreement in order to reject the accusations of involvement in the massacre.

He said that not only was FIS not involved in the murders but that it strongly condemned the massacre. He said that he has sent a letter to Silvio Berlusconi expressing his condolences.

The question that remains is: Who killed the Italian sailors? Kebir says that there are elements in this tragedy which are suspicious. First, the port of Djiendjen, where the massacre took place, is an area under the complete control of the police. It is accessible only to those trusted by the police. Second, he said that the Algerian regime has been trying to destroy the FIS for some time by depicting it as a terrorist movement capable only of killing. According to Kebir, the massacre was carried out to increase the climate of fear and to win the backing of the great powers for its policy of repression against the fundamentalists.

Five Russian Nationals Shot Dead East of Algiers

LD1107101094 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 11 Jul 94

[Text] The security services have announced that five Russian nationals were shot dead this morning near Oued Ouchayeh tunnel, east of the capital [Algiers]. The five victims were working in Algeria within the framework of a contract between the two countries.

Security Forces Kill Eight 'Terrorists'

LD1007194094 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 10 Jul 94

[Text] A statement by the security services has today announced the killing of eight terrorists in operations by the security forces between last Monday and Friday.

The same source mentioned that the killing of those terrorists took place in the light of the search operations that the security forces began, i.e these were the operations that took place in the capital Algiers, Sidi Moussa, Tlemcen, and Medea, during which the security forces recovered a number of automatic pistols.

Sifi: Elections Only Solution to Crisis

LD1007134494 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 10 Jul 94

[Text] On the eve of presenting the government's preliminary program to the Transitional National Council, Mokdad Sifi, head of government, gave an interview to the daily EL WATAN in which he dealt with the totality of political and economic issues.

In his interview, Mokdad Sifi pointed out that elections were the only way out for the political crisis through which the country had been going for about three years.

[Correspondent Djamila] In his reply to a question about his government's program, he said it was ready and would be presented to the Transitional National Council immediately after the latter finished its internal organizational issues.

Concerning a question about whether the issue of privatization had been decisively settled after the controversy it had raised on account that the government program was ready, Mokdad Sifi pointed out that the issue was connected with the preliminary program and that our mission was to reach better productivity and returns from our units of production, pointing out that each step that achieved that would be adopted, including privatization, but not at the workers' expense.

In his interview with the daily EL WATAN, the head of government stressed that elections were the only way out from the crisis, but what was more important was how to reach that. The head of government added it was not the government's responsibility to determine the step which should be followed, because all the forces in the country should discuss a frank consultative framework. The head of government pointed out that the elections could be held before the end of the transitional period determined by three years, but that was conditional on the political, economic and security stability in the country.

On a question about the renewal of the appeal for dialogue, as the head of state affirmed in his address to the nation on the eve of the anniversary of restoring national sovereignty, Mokdad Sifi said the issue was connected with an appeal addressed by the head of state for the second time, an urgent and difficult issue at the same time. I think, Sifi said, solving the crisis entails putting aside partisan viewpoints for the benefit of the nation's higher interest, pointing out that the dialogue was open to all the national forces and figures that put the country's interest above all considerations, but those who stood behind violence and did not condemn it were isolating themselves from the dialogue.

Egypt

Mubarak Discusses Peace, Yemen, Terrorism

NC1007210294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1950 GMT 10 Jul 94

[Report on interview with President Husni Mubarak by unidentified correspondents to be published in 11 July edition of Paris LE FIGARO; place and date not given]

[Text] Paris, 10 Jul (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has affirmed that Egypt has excellent relations with French President Francois Mitterrand and the French Government. He noted that the relations between the two countries are strong.

In an interview with the French newspaper LE FIGARO, which will be published tomorrow, President Mubarak explained that his talks in Paris with President Mitterrand will deal with the situation in the Middle East and Africa.

Referring to the Middle East peace process, President Mubarak said that there is still a gap between the Syrian and Israeli positions because there is a lack of confidence between the two countries. But he noted that the gap has narrowed somewhat with the help of the United States.

President Mubarak said that if peace is established, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad might accept the presence of an Israeli flag in Damascus. This might stir nervousness among some people at the beginning, but this is natural.

Referring to the return of Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat to Gaza and Jericho, President Mubarak said that 'Arafat is the right man for the job today, and his disappearance would mean chaos, conflict among the rival factions, and a move back to square one. He emphasized the need for the donor countries to support 'Arafat to end tension in the Middle East.

President Mubarak noted the role he played to achieve Israeli withdrawal from Jericho when the talks were only concentrating on Gaza. He indicated that he undertook this effort at the request of Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, and that this was a difficult task.

Referring to the situation in Yemen, President Mubarak said that the problem has not been solved, but is beginning now. He explained that the use of force, bloodshed, and destruction of utilities and services will stir the anger of the people of the south.

President Mubarak noted that he has repeatedly emphasized to the two sides in Yemen the need to hold negotiations within the framework of unity, and that he was ready to receive them to work for the solution of their problem. But the north refused and the south declared its secession without giving sufficient consideration to the situation.

Regarding the problem of extremism in Egypt, President Mubarak affirmed that this problem has eased considerably, and Egypt is dealing with it firmly within the law. He said that one must be careful, because extremism is an international problem, and extremists exist not only in Egypt.

Asked whether the solution of the Palestinian problem will reduce the threat posed by extremism, President Mubarak said that this was one of the factors. It will ease the tension because there are many problems with fundamentalists in the occupied territories and Jordan.

Regarding the Muslim Brotherhood group in Egypt, President Mubarak said this is an illegal organization. He noted that the Muslim Brothers stirred up trouble in Egypt in the forties. After the revolution, President 'Abd-al-Nasir adopted strong measures against them, and President al-Sadat did the same.

President Mubarak added: I have not changed my attitude. I am very firm by nature and I respect the law. I assumed the authority after President al-Sadat was assassinated. I tried to hold a dialogue with those who committed this terrorist action, until they started using machine guns. At this point, it was necessary to be firm with them.

President Mubarak denied that there are 20,000 political prisoners in Egypt. He stated that there are no political prisoners in Egypt. All those in prisons have committed crimes. No one has ever been imprisoned for his views or for political reasons.

Minister Quotes Mubarak on Decisionmaking, Yemen

NC0907133594 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1145 GMT 9 Jul 94

[Remarks by Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif following a ceremony marking the graduation of naval officers at the Navy Academy, with President Mubarak's attendance, in Alexandria on 9 July—recorded]

[Text] Following the ceremony, President Mubarak met with some officials who were present at the ceremony, including the speakers of the People's Assembly and the Consultative Council, the ministers, heads of parties, the chief of staff of the Armed Forces, and commanders of the main branches. During the meeting, the president discussed the decision-making process in Egypt. He noted that decisions in Egypt are made following a thorough assessment of all political, social, and economic dimensions and on the basis of accurate and verified information, so that Egypt's decisions are credible at local, Arab, and international levels. Since Egypt is a country with various institutions and a long history and culture, the chances for errors in calculations are out of the question, because in its capacity as the biggest and most influential Arab nation it takes things seriously and bases its decisions on accurate information and studies. Its decisions are not made hastily and are not governed by mere slogans, but on realities that take the interests of Egypt and the Arab nation and its reputation worldwide into account.

President Mubarak explained the situation in Yemen and how the crisis started. He noted the need for the Yemeni president's future moves to be prudent, for him to rally all factions of the Yemeni community, north and south, around him, and to seek the cohesion of the Yemeni people by holding a dialogue with the southern community until the crisis comes to an end. Egypt is eager for Yemen to have stability, security, and unity based on understanding and common will, the president added.

Concerning the Egyptian decision-making process and reports sometimes published in the foreign press, the president pointed out that Egyptian policy is governed by ethics, values, and the supreme interests of the Egyptian people. The president added: I do not accept any advice from any country whatsoever concerning domestic issues. Egypt has its own institutions and culture and it knows better than others about its own affairs. The president added: We consult about international issues, but as far as our domestic affairs are concerned the Egyptian decisions are governed by pure Egyptian will.

The president also talked about his eagerness to provide a secure life for the people, to raise the standards of living, and to respect the Egyptians' right to development, work, education, medical care, freedom, and democracy within the law and the Constitution. The president added: In Egypt we do not allow anyone whatsoever, whether Egyptian or foreigner, at home or abroad, to disrupt Egypt's security and stability. The president referred to efforts to track down extremists, adding that we must not confuse the activity of some individuals, groups, or societies that support terrorism and the position of the governments and states. The president also outlined the achievements in the peace process and the Palestinian president's entry into Gaza and Jericho. He also noted the efforts for progress on the other Arab tracks. He noted Egypt's principled and firm position regarding the Palestinian issue and the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

Foreign Minister Musa Discusses Peace, Foreign Ties

On Yemen; Peace; Iran, Sudan Ties

NC0907200794 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 6 Jul 94 p 7

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] Do you regard the entry of northern Yemeni forces into Aden as a final settlement of the problem?

[Musa] No. I do not think that a military solution can settle the problem, and the entry into Aden does not mean the end of the crisis. A settlement must come through dialogue between the parties to the conflict.

[Correspondent] Doesn't the current situation in Yemen demand convening an Arab summit?

[Musa] Convening an Arab summit is not simple. We are not losing hope, but this demands careful preparation in terms of procedure, agenda, and a good atmosphere that must exist in the area.

[Correspondent] Now that the Palestinians have assumed responsibility in the self-rule areas of Gaza and Jericho, is there a possibility that President Mubarak will visit these areas?

[Musa] This matter is not under consideration at present.

[Correspondent] What are the prospects for progress on the other negotiating tracks with Israel, particularly the Syrian track?

[Musa] Egyptian diplomacy thinks that the Syrian-Israeli track is decisive and governs the peace process in the area in view of its crucial importance with regard to withdrawal from the territories occupied in 1967 and security arrangements in the area. We expect a revitalization of this track during U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's forthcoming visit to the area.

[Correspondent] How can Egypt assist in this track as it did before in narrowing the Palestinian-Israeli differences?

[Musa] Egypt is following with interest the developments on the various tracks with a view to supporting the Arab position which is consistent with the Madrid framework. But we do not impose ourselves on anyone. We remain ready to utilize our relations with Israel to support the positions of the other parties. We believe that Israel is firmly moving toward reaching a comprehensive settlement. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Possibilities for an improvement in Egyptian- Iranian relations have recently been noticed. What is the current situation in this regard?

[Musa] Egyptian-Iranian relations are being observed under the microscope. Good intentions exist for improving the relations. But the matter demands putting these intentions into practice to advance these relations. Historical relations exist between the peoples of the two countries. Iran as a state cannot disregard its historic relations with the Arab states.

However, there are many pending problems that require continuous efforts to resolve. We cannot turn over a new leaf and make a new start in our relations by merely adopting a firm decision and setting a firm date. Serious, productive work is necessary to remove the problems that exist in Egyptian-Iranian relations in particular and Arab-Iranian relations in general. I can confirm that there are positive signs from Iran in this regard.

[Correspondent] President Husni Mubarak has affirmed that Egypt will not fire a single bullet at Sudan. However, Sudan is continuing to level various accusations against Egypt. How can this difficult formula which governs Sudanese-Egyptian relations be solved?

[Musa] The relations between the Egyptian and Sudanese peoples are good, fraternal, and strong. But there is a problem with the present Sudanese regime. The cause of this problem is Sudanese policies which Egypt cannot accept or agree with. We must not aggravate this conflict. The responsibility should be borne by the Sudanese Government, because the Egyptian Government has not changed its policy toward Sudan. We view Sudan in a special way. Nevertheless, there is always hope and room to improve the relations. [passage omitted]

On Yemen, Peace, Bosnia

NC0807125694 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 8 Jul 94

[Text] In an interview with the radio's central news unit, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa dealt with President Husni Mubarak's visit to France, the Czech Republic, and Slovakia. He said the timing of the trip is appropriate with regard to Egypt's relations with the three countries. Musa said that relations between Egypt and France require continuous bilateral consultations on the highest level.

The foreign minister noted that during the visit to France, the president will discuss bilateral relations, the recent Mediterranean Forum meetings, the Middle East peace process, and events in Rwanda and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Asked about the president's visit to the Czech and Slovak Republics, 'Amr Musa said it is the first official visit on the presidential level. The visit comes in response to the Czech president's visit to Egypt before the partition of Czechoslovakia. He said relations were strong, adding that Egypt is interested in promoting trade and economic ties and increasing investment opportunities between Egypt and the Czech and Slovak Republics.

Asked to comment on developments in Yemen, the foreign minister said Egypt has always asked for a halt to the fighting in compliance with the UN Security Council resolution so as to prevent the situation from deteriorating in Aden and nearby areas. Musa affirmed that Egypt still believes unity cannot be imposed by force and that issues call for an extremely rational approach now that the war has ended. He said an amnesty decision is more important than halting the war so as to confront revenge measures that might occur.

'Amr Musa stressed the importance of respecting humanitarian aspects and said the brothers in Yemen must remember that they are all Yemeni. He said Egypt voices the hope that Yemen will witness stability and tranquility. He said the situation in Yemen still needs to be followed up closely. Musa added that Egypt will be in the forefront of states giving humanitarian assistance to Yemen. He noted that Egypt is currently studying Yemen's needs, particularly in Aden and the devastated areas.

Asked about developments in the Middle East, the foreign minister said the next stage will witness progress with regard to the peace process and the effort toward establishing full self-rule in the occupied territories. He said U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will arrive in the second half of July to reactivate the Syrian-Israeli track. Musa noted that an important step will also be taken on the Jordanian-Israeli track.

Alluding to events in Bosnia-Herzegovina, 'Amr Musa said the Bosnian Government's acceptance of the recent partition plan reiterates its desire to end the tragedy and also confirms the Bosnian Serbs' extremist stances and rejection of the plan. He said sanctions should be increased if they insist on their rejection. The foreign minister said that Egypt fully supports Bosnia and that it has made this clear to the U.S. and Russian ambassadors and the European side.

On Cairo's Role in Yemen, Amnesty

NC1007061394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2055 GMT 9 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 9 Jul (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has urged the Yemeni leadership to issue and implement a general amnesty for those who participated in the recent war in Yemen to contain the consequences of war.

Speaking on the Voice of America tonight, Musa said any retaliatory measures against some or all the south Yemeni leaders will result in repercussions.

He added that the war itself and the military clash between two Yemeni groups left deep wounds and caused an inhuman situation. Future measures, he said, must focus on ways to remove this situation. He noted that humanitarian measures, such as issuing a general amnesty law, must be taken and they should cover everyone without exception to overcome the consequences of the war that left victims and destruction. In this way, Yemen may emerge from its predicament.

He said Egypt's stance on the war in Yemen was clear in rejecting this war regardless of its reasons, because unity, as we have said often, cannot be maintained in such a way. Unity is preserved by democratic dialogue, he noted.

He said: This is what we called for and we hope the next stage will not witness further confrontation and fighting.

Commenting on Egypt's role in the Yemeni crisis, the foreign minister said the Egyptian role been clear in attempting to ease the situation, reach a cease-fire, disengage the forces, and then initiate a dialogue. This role, he added, did not cease until the end. He noted the assistant foreign minister's visits to Sanaa conveying messages from President Husni Mubarak and, as representative of the Egyptian Government, trying to bridge the gap and find a settlement to the dispute.

Musa said the dispute leading to internal war might have ended in this [word indistinct] way but the situation in Yemen remains fragile, which affects the region around Yemen.

He noted that Egypt will continue to work to contain any consequences that might have a domestic or regional impact. This role, he said, is not imposed on Egypt, but is a necessary one. He remarked that in his latest message to President Husni Mubarak, Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih praised the Egyptian role and urged its continuation.

The foreign minister pointed out that the Egyptian role is based on Arab coordination. It is a role that does not stem from a vacuum in which Egypt acts unilaterally. It stems from coordination with other Arab brothers and the parties concerned. He emphasized that the most important thing now is to achieve national reconciliation based on a general amnesty and to deal with the humanitarian issues raised when things in south Yemen deteriorated. This is what we are seeking.

On Egypt's stance on setting up an Arab mechanism to resolve disputes, Musa said such a mechanism will be very useful and the issue is currently being discussed. But, he noted, all Arab countries must approve such a measure so that it can be implemented.

PLO's 'Arafat Stops Over Briefly in Cairo

NC1007164694 Cairo ESC Television in Arabic 1500 GMT 10 Jul 94

[Text] Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat stopped over at Cairo airport today coming from Jeddah on his way to Tunisia. He was received and seen off at the airport by Dr. Kamal al-Janzuri, deputy prime minister and planning minister.

Security, Terrorism Deal Signed With China

NC0907194594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1630 GMT 9 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 9 Jul (MENA)—Egypt and China have signed a comprehensive security agreement during Interior Minister Hasan al- Alfi's recent six-day official visit to China, during which he held talks with Chinese Interior Minister Ruji [name and title as received]. The agreement covers a number of security issues, including the exchange of expertise and information on international crimes, whether they relate to terrorist activity, narcotics, or forgery.

Major General Ra'uf al-Manawi, official spokesman of the Interior Ministry, disclosed the agreement in a news conference he held at the ministry today. He said al-Alfi's visit to China had sought to consolidate Egypt's international ties in the security field, in implementation of the new security strategy, which is based on modernizing armament and training methods and opening contacts with the outside world to benefit from the advanced technology in all the ministry's departments. Maj. Gen. al-Manawi described al-Alfi's visit as a successful trip that achieved all its objectives, particularly since it was his first trip abroad since assuming his post. He noted that China is one of the leading developing nations that offers advanced and inexpensive technology and its economic experiment is similar to the Egyptian experiment. He added that there is a broad room to benefit from this experiment in developing some of the Interior Ministry's administrations, such as the prisons adminit? The Chinese are expected to return the visit very soon, he added. In his talks, al-Alfi noted the importance of cooperation between the two countries in the field of combating narcotics, which constitutes an extremely serious problem for several of the world's countries, he added, noting that China is leading in the field of counternarcotics and it is close to the golden triangle area, which is responsible for distributing drugs worldwide. He pointed out that similar visits will be made soon to other advanced countries, adding that arrangements are being made for a visit to Japan.

Al-Manawi denied that the interior minister had visited Pakistan, adding that a security agreements exists between Egypt and Pakistan. He added that the upcoming stage will see a positive international movement to modernize all police departments. He said that Chinese teams will be arriving in Egypt to receive training on the advanced activity in Egypt while Egyptian teams will be trained in China.

Asked about the current security situation in Egypt, Maj Gen al- Manawi stressed that terrorist and extremist groups are greatly infiltrated by the security agencies, which have extensive information both on the elements that exist in the country or those abroad, who are all under full control. He noted that the security tranquility that Egypt now enjoys is due to the fact that there is a tight watch on all exit and entry points. It follows the elimination of top terrorists inside Egypt, such as 'Adil Siyam, Tal'at Yasin Hammam, and Tharwat Hajjaj.

Asked about the extremist elements present in Yemen and whether it is possible to repatriate them following the recent events in Yemen, the official spokesman expressed his belief that as an Arab country Yemen will not spare any action in this regard. He stressed, however, that Egypt has not requested the repatriation of any of these elements recently.

Replying to a question on the terrorists who are currently in Pakistan and whether they are on a list to be extradited, the Interior Ministry's official spokesman affirmed that these terrorists are indeed present in Pakistan and that they are under Pakistani security control. He noted that the Pakistani authorities are in control of the incoming and outgoing traffic on their borders.

He said that the terrorists who are currently in Pakistan are not only from Egypt but come from various Arab and Islamic countries and added that more than 23 terrorists have been retrieved from abroad and the number is on the increase.

He noted that the security agencies' recent success does not mean that they have completely eliminated terrorism in Egypt but that there is a continuous security confrontation and that the security authorities are on guard and have the situation under control.

He said that the arrest of principal and influential members of terrorist and extremist groups and the gathering of all information on them and on their funding and movements in and outside the country led to the disintegration of these groups' internal structure.

Commenting on the release of repenting extremists, he said more of them will be released in future.

On security coordination with Israel, al-Manawi said Israel is a neighboring state with which we have joint exit and entry points and thus there has to be coordination.

It is noteworthy that the security delegation that visited China was led by Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi. It comprised Major General Ahmad al-'Adili, assistant interior minister for state security affairs; Maj. Gen. Fathi al-Sharbini, head of the projects sector; and Maj. Gen. Ra'uf al-Manawi, assistant interior minister and director of the ministry's public relations.

Court Postpones Verdict in Assassination Attempt

NC0907114994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0920 GMT 9 Jul 94

[Excerpt] Cairo, 9 Jul (MENA)—The higher military court decided at its session this morning to postpone until Thursday [14 July] its verdict in the trial of 17 defendants, including two fugitives, accused of attempting to assassinate Interior Minister Major General Hasan al-Alfi. [passage omitted]

Correspondent's Prison Sentence Reduced

NC0907165394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1120 GMT 9 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 9 Jun (MENA)—The reduction of the prison sentence imposed on AL-SHA'B correspondent 'Abd-al-Sattar Abu-Husayn from one year to three months was ratified today.

The correspondent lodged two appeals to the military command, stressing in them that he was not aware of the way military news was published and asked that his appeal be studied for humanitarian reasons and nothing else.

The correspondent was told of the ratification today and that he will be released in few days' time, as soon as his reduced sentence is completed.

Security Officer Killed in Asyut Village

NC1007084894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0835 GMT 10 Jul 94

[Text] Asyut, 10 Jul (MENA)—Major 'Adil 'Antar 'Abd-al-Hafiz, an officer in the al-Wadi al-Jadid Security Directorate, was killed when unidentified gunmen shot him as he stood in front of his house in al-Sahrij, Markaz Manfalut, early today. The gunmen fled.

Security sources believe revenge is behind the incident. Asyut security officials heading a large force rushed to the scene, cordoned it off, and started the search for the culprits.

The investigation was taken over by the Manfalut prosecution office under Counselor Mahrus Muhammad 'Ali, the north Asyut public prosecutor.

Libya

Algerian Prime Minister Sifi Visits; Accords Signed

Comments Upon Departure

LD0807142894 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 8 Jul 94

[Excerpts] Algerian Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi left Banghazi this afternoon at the end of a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah during which he took part in meetings of the 8th session of the Arab Libyan-Algerian Joint Executive Committee. [passage omitted]

The Algerian prime minister expressed deep satisfaction at the meetings of the Arab Libyan-Algerian Joint Executive Committee and at the procedures of work and its tangible outcome.

In a statement to JANA, Mokdad Sifi said: We expect these results to come into practice and become an element to promote brotherly solidarity and give a new important impetus to the relations between the two countries within the framework of uniting the Arab Maghreb and the Arab-Muslim nation.

Joint 'News Statement' Issued

LD0807144094 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 8 Jul 94

["Text" of "news statement" issued on 8 July after meetings of the eighth session of the Libyan-Algerian Joint Executive Committee in Banghazi]

[Text] On the basis of the common will of the Arab Libyan and Algerian peoples, their firm determination to achieve integration and build the edifice of the Arab Maghreb Union on the path of comprehensive Arab unity and in implementation of the directives of the two countries' leaders Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and His Excellency President Liamine Zeroual, and in implementation of the economic integration program, the Arab Libyan-Algerian Joint Executive Committee held meetings of its eighth session in Banghazi between the 7 and 8 July 1994 under the chairmanship of 'Abd-al-Majid al-Qa'ud, secretary of the General People's Committee [GPC] in the Great Jamahiriyah, and brother Mokdad Sifi, head of the Algerian government, in the presence of the members of the secretariat of the General People's Committee and a number of Algerian ministers.

The leader of the revolution received Mokdad Sifi in the presence of GPC Secretary 'Abd-al-Majid al-Qa'ud and members of the Algerian and Libyan delegations. The brother leader was briefed on the progress of the joint committee's meetings and gave his directives to pursue the efforts to implement all the resolutions and agreements reached between the two countries within the framework of common historic unionist work and as an achievement of the edifice of the Arab maghreb Union as a step on the path of comprehensive Arab unity. The head of the Algerian Government conveyed to the leader greetings from his brother President Liamine Zeroual.

More on 'News Statement'

LD0807172294 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1510 GMT 8 Jul 94

[Excerpts] Banghazi, 8 Jul (JANA)—[passage omitted] At the opening session of the Arab Libyan-Algerian Joint Executive Committee, both the secretary of the General People's Committee and the head of the Algerian Government made addresses expressing satisfaction at [words indistinct] the course of cooperation and integration between the two countries through the implementation of joint integration programs, projects and agreements.

Meetings of the eighth session of the Joint Executive Committee were marked by an atmosphere of real brotherhood and a firm determination to achieve bilateral economic and social integration.

The Joint Executive Committee reviewed the preparatory committee's report, which included an assessment of spheres of common social, cultural and economic work.

The Joint Executive Committee stressed the importance of working to bolster economic ties between the two countries in a way that will provide a base for natural progress toward the smooth movement of individuals and their trade and investment ties.

The meetings [word indistinct] the assessment of the outcome of the implementation of joint programs in spheres of industry, energy, building and construction, transport, communications, agriculture, trade, banking, customs, culture, information, education, and security. [passage omitted]

The Joint Executive Committee decided to increase the efficiency of the joint teams working on the assessment of the minutes and agreements concluded between the two countries by drawing a program for socioeconomic integration which will meet economic developments in the two countries.

The committee also endorsed a mechanism for permanent political consultation regarding pan-Arab, regional and international issues in order to unify views and stances regarding [word indistinct]

The head of the Algerian Government expressed his country's support and solidarity with the Arab Libyan people in their firm struggle in facing unjust sanctions. He stressed that the negative repercussions of these sanctions have harmed the course of the Arab Maghreb Union and called for an urgent solution to this affair.

The secretary of the General People's Committee hailed the stances taken by Algeria's Government and people, stressing the will to [passage indistinct]. He expressed his satisfaction at the joint endeavor to build the Arab Maghreb Union as a step on the path of comprehensive Arab unity, and as a strategic choice which helps our countries achieve economic progress and bolster their own capabilities.

Issued in Banghazi, 8 July 1994

Consular, Judicial Accords Signed

LD0807162394 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1448 GMT 8 Jul 94

[Text] Banghazi, 8 Jul—Two agreements on consular and judicial cooperation were signed between the Great Jamahiriyah and brotherly Algeria in Banghazi this morning.

The two agreements were signed by the secretary of the General People's Committee for Justice, Algerian Justice Minister Mohamed Teguia, and Meziane Cherif, the Algerian interior, local authorities, environment, and administrative reform minister.

Tunisia

President Ben Ali Sends Message to G-7

LD0907161294 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 9 jul 94

[Message from President Ben Ali, president of the Organization of African Unity, sent on 9 July to the G-7 heads of state and government meeting in Naples, Italy—read by annnouncer]

[Text] Mr. President, your excellencies heads of state. on my behalf and in my capacity as direct president of the OAU, it is my pleasure to greet your summit and express the interest we have in its resulting resolutions and guidelines. These will certainly have a great impact on the course of international relations in general and international economic relations in particular.

On the basis of what we have always called for in Tunisia, and which has been stressed by the OAU's 30th summit, held recently in Tunisia—that the future of humanity, the balance and stability of the international community, and the establishment of peace and security in the world could never be achieved without the intertwining of the efforts of all peoples and countries, their cooperation and solidarity—the African continent, through the will of its peoples and leaders, has renewed its determination to carry out an active contribution in this march of humanity and to leave the vicious circle of marginality and backwardness, especially after it has now turned the last pages of colonialism and apartheid.

As the African continent braces itself today to invest its human and material resources and capabilities to achieve social and economic development, assuming its responsibility in establishing democracy, security, and stability in all its corners, and relying primarily on itself, it believes that the international community has a role and contribution to play in reaching these noble goals.

As mankind shares the same destiny, Tunisia proposes to the industrialized countries in general, and to the seven richer ones in particular, to think of drawing up a comprehensive international plan for the development of Africa. As I made it clear in my previous letters to you following the Toronto summit and in various international circles, Tunisia reiterates its proposal to conclude a pact of progress and peace, and achieve an interdependent development on the basis of a sound partnership, a partnership that would stimulate the movement of investment and restore balance to the conditions of economic exchange in a way that would serve the interests of all parties.

In addition to this we call for the phenomenon of the immigration of Africa's manpower to Europe to be examined and treated so as to guarantee stability and progress on the Mediterranean shores, and peace in the world.

Treating African countries' debts by writing them off either totally or partially, or rechannelling funds into environmental and developmental projects remain at the top of the radical solutions which should be taken immediately by rich countries so that Africa can be provided the conditions for a real economic revival, and also the ground necessary to guarantee the success of structural and political reforms introduced by its countries away from social upheaval and risks of a deterioration of security.

The international transformations witnessed by Africa at this decisive stage, including armed conflicts and potential spots of tension bound to explode, which has left hundreds of thousands of victims, millions of refugees and displaced persons, particularly women and children, such as the case in Rwanda today, require the international community to strongly and effectively support African efforts and also the mechanisms for solving African conflicts set up by the OAU based on the will of Africa's peoples and countries' to restore peace and stability to the continent within the framework of international legitimacy and the values and criteria agreed by the international community, and in a strong atmosphere of coordination and solidarity between the OAU and the United Nations on the one hand, and all countries and forces of peace on the other.

Proceeding from the principle of the duty for international cooperation in humanitarian issues, the 30th OAU summit attached great importance to several issues, foremost the situation of the African child, the spread of AIDS, and the increasing numbers of refugees and displaced people. The OAU summit adopted a number of practical measures to this effect and called on the international community, particularly the rich countries, to support this effort and to back the UN and regional institutions and the nongovernmental organizations so as to enable them to achieve this noble goal, in the service of the African people and mankind in general.

I am certain that your summit knows how important it is to work toward bridging the current gap between the African continent and the developed world, because the continued existence of this gap will upset the balance, stability, and security of the world. Africa, with its states and peoples, is fully aware of its responsibility to take up the great challenges facing it. It is today determined, more than ever before, to exert all its efforts and make all necessary sacrifices to occupy the place it deserves in the international community, and to contribute to the realization of a better future for all mankind within the framework of international solidarity.

I wish your summit all the success, and I am confident that the voice of Africa will find with you the best echo and care.

Saudi Arabia

'Arafat Meets With King, Prince in Jeddah

Thanks Fahd for Support

LD1007200694 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 10 Jul 94

[Text] The brother President Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the Palestinian National Authority and of the Executive Committee of the PLO, had a meeting last evening in Jeddah with his brother Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, King of Saudi Arabia. During the one and a half hour long meeting they reviewed the situation in the region and issues of common interest. Brother President 'Arafat once again thanked his majesty and the fraternal Saudi people on behalf of our Palestinian people and the PLO for the continuous support for the struggle of our Palestinian people, for the realization of its inalienable national rights to freedom and return, and the setting up of its own independent state with holy Jerusalem as the capital.

During the meeting, the custodian of the two holy mosques congratulated brother President 'Arafat on his return to the homeland Palestine, and the historic steps achieved.

The meeting was attended on the Palestinian side by brothers Yasir 'Abd Rabbu, Dr. Nabil Sha'th, and Mustafa Qasim, Palestinian charge d'affaires in the Kingdom. It was attended on the Saudi side by His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister and minister of defense and aviation, and inspector-general, and His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, minister of foreign affairs, Shaykh Ibrahim al-'Anqari, minister of planning, and Shaykh Ibrahim Sa'ud, minister of state.

Brother President 'Arafat and the delegation accompanying him had performed the rites of minor pilgrimage.

Speaks With Prince

LD1007125394 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1110 GMT 10 Jul 94

[Text] His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO's Executive Committee, received His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign affairs minister, at his residence in Jeddah this morning.

Cordial talks were held during the meeting.

Leaves for Tunis via Cairo

LD1007154294 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1430 GMT 10 Jul 94

[Excerpts] His Excellency Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO, visited the Prophet's mosque this afternoon and performed his prayers there. [passage omitted]

His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat and his delegation left Medina this afternoon. He was seen off at Prince Muhammad Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz airport in Medina by His Royal Highness Prince 'Abd al-Majid Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, governor of Medina Region, and senior civilian and military officials.

The Palestinian president later stopped over at Cairo airport on his way back to Tunis.

Yemen

Sanaa Government Makes Pledges for Peace at UN

NC0807181494 Paris AFP in English 1628 GMT 8 Jul 94

[Text] United Nations, July 8 (AFP)—Yemen's victorious northern government has pledged to the United Nations to end all hostilities and seek a national dialogue following a 10-week civil war.

The pledge from the Sanaa authorities was made in a letter to UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali which was handed over Thursday evening by Yemen's Minister of Planning and Development 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ali al-Iryani.

President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's government made five pledges:

- the immediate cessation of all military action in compliance with Security Council resolutions 924 and 931.
- the start of relief operations in and around Aden.
- its decision to declare a full and comprehensive amnesty and its readiness to compensate all losses of life and property caused by the war.
- respect for democracy, political pluralism, freedom of speech, freedom of the press and human rights.
- commitment to the resumption of the national dialogue in the framework of constitutional legitimacy.

The Yemenis also said it was determined to cooperate fully with other countries in the Middle East region "on the basis of mutual respect for territorial integrity and non-intervention in domestic affairs."

"The Secretary General stressed the importance the international community attaches to the full and immediate implementation of the commitments made in the letter," a spokesman for Butrus-Ghali said.

"He expressed his hope that no effort would be spared in order to restore normalcy to the whole of Yemen and to promote peace and prosperity for its people."

Salih Assures Brutus-Ghali of Committment

JN0907081394 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 9 Jul 94

[Text] A telephone conversation took place yesterday between brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah

Salih, the Presidential Council chairman, and UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali. They reviewed the latest developments in our country in light of the cessation of all military operations against the rebels after the end of their rebellion, the spread of the state's authority throughout the country, the prevalence of security, and the restoration of calm and normalcy to all areas targeted by the rebels' sedition.

During the telephone conversation, the brother chairman of the Presidential Council emphasized the Republic of Yemen's commitment to applying the Presidential Council's statement of 7 July and the letter that the Government of the Republic of Yemen has addressed to the UN secretary general, both stressing the implementation of the general amnesty law, compensating the citizens for their losses resulting from the acts of rebellion in accordance with the regulations that will be decided by the Council of Ministers, continued abidance by the democratization process and political and party pluralism, maintaining the freedom of the press, respect for human rights, adopting the principle of dialogue in the framework of constitutional legitimacy to resolve any political differences, and renouncing all forms of violence in political relations. They also stress that efforts will be exerted to expeditiously normalize public life in the areas that have been harmed by the acts of rebellion and subversion and that all civil servants will return to their jobs. In addition, popular participation in authority will be expanded and a local government system securing broad prerogatives for administrative units will be effected. The brother chairman also expressed thanks and appreciation to the UN secretary general and the United Nations for their efforts to resolve the Yemeni crisis. He stressed our country's continued readiness to cooperate with the United Nations and to vigorously participate in all its activities to serve world peace issues.

Groups Discuss New National Unity Government

NC0907151894 Paris AFP in English 1237 GMT 9 Jul 94

[Text] Sanaa, July 9 (AFP)—Consultations aimed at forming a new Yemeni government of national unity are being held in Sanaa and outside Yemen, a government official said here Saturday [9 July].

Several political parties, including the Aden-based Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP), were involved in the discussions, said the official who asked not to be named.

He said Planning Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani would head the new government.

Al-Iryani, formerly foreign minister, has been holding talks with southern Yemeni officials in New York under UN auspices.

Northern forces loyal to President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih captured Aden Thursday after two months of civil war.

"The new government should include prominent political and national figures," the source said.

Sanaa has always insisted it is ready for a dialogue with southern leaders who favour Yemeni unity. But it has ruled out talks with separatist leader 'Ali Salim al-Bid and 15 of his closest aides wanted by the authorities for trying to set up a separate state in the south.

The official said contacts were also under way with neighbouring countries, and stressed Sanaa's desire to "overcome differences" with Riyadh.

The Saudi government Friday condemned north Yemen's "obstinate" resort to military might and urged the start of an unconditional dialogue.

The official said the new government would aim to rebuild the war-ravaged country, establish national dialogue and strengthen ties with neighbouring countries.

In Kuwait the independent daily Al-Siyassa said Salih intended to ask parliament to elect a new presidential council, which would include two prominent southern politicians—former South Yemen president 'Ali Nasir Muhammad and presidential council member Salim Salih Muhammad.

'Ali Nasir Muhammad has lived in exile since January 1986, when he was ousted from Aden in bloody factional fighting.

Salih To Ask Former Southern Leaders To Join Council

LD0907120294 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0956 GMT 9 Jul 94

[Text] Kuwait, 9 Jul (KUNA)—A Kuwaiti newspaper today quoted a Yemeni source it described as "official" as saying that President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih is to invite the Yemeni Parliament to convene today or tomorrow to elect a new presidential council.

The AL-SIYASAH newspaper said that the source, which it did not identify, said in a telephone conversation that the new parliamentary [as received] formation would also include 'Ali Nasir Muhammad [former president of south Yemen] and Salim Salih Mohammad [member of the former Yemeni presidential council and Yemeni Socialist Party Political Bureau] from the south.

The source went on to say that a special envoy of President Salih will travel to Damascus tomorrow to deliver an official invitation from President Salih to 'Ali Nasir Muhammad. The source expects that Salim Salih Muhammad will remain within the northern Presidential Council.

The source said that during the next two days President Salih will send special envoys to capitals of the Arab Gulf states, and to neighboring Arab countries in general, in order to explain the latest developments in an attempt to turn the page of the past, which has been tainted by confusion and uncertainty.

Salih's Instructions on Aden, Detainees Cited

NC0907142494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1250 GMT 9 Jul 94

[Text] Sanaa, 9 Jul (MENA)—MENA has learned from knowledgeable sources in Sanaa that Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih issued an order today that armed forces and army units be withdrawn from Aden and deployed in their camps. The order also stipulates that police and security forces will maintain security in the town.

The Yemeni president previously undertook to keep Aden free of camps and weapons and that the show of force in the town would only be carried out by police units. The sources stressed that measures have been adopted to make Aden a free area, to build the development infrastructure, and to modernize utilities.

Meanwhile, the Yemeni Government has urged international and humanitarian organizations, human rights organizations, and Amnesty International to assist it in determining the whereabouts of 1,000 military and civilian detainees held by the southern forces.

After their entry into Aden, the northern forces, according to the sources, released 2,700 detainees who were imprisoned because they refused to take part in the combat operations against the government troops.

Central Security Forces in Aden Released

JN1007194994 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 10 Jul 94

[Text] The Central Security Forces that were stationed in the commercial city of Aden returned to Sanaa today along with members of the military police. Having been held unjustifiably in secessionist prisons for two months, they returned after the forces of constitutional legitimacy managed to defeat the forces of rebellion and secession.

Leading those who received them at Sanaa International Airport were brother Staff Colonel Muhammad 'Abdallah Salih, the Central Security commander and Central Security officials. They were received with a warm welcome on their return to the capital of the state of unity, Sanaa, after having suffered all kinds of psychological and physical torture inside the rebel prisons. The prisons are now controlled by the forces of legitimacy, the last one to taken being the prison in al-Ghaydha', the capital of al-Mahrah Governorate.

In a statement to the Yemeni News Agency, SABA', the Central Security commander expressed his joy over the safe return of most members and officers of the Central Security Forces to their families. The brother Central Security commander praised the heroic role played by the Armed and Security Forces in defending unity and constitutional legitimacy until sure victory was achieved. Within this context, he praised national cohesion and the stand of the people from all factions alongside the forces of legitimacy and unity, who made their money and souls available to defend unity and democracy. He noted that a number of Central Security officers are still missing and that there is an ongoing search for them.

Salih Addresses Army Unit, Stresses 'Tolerance'

JN0907183594 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Jul 94

[Text] Lieutenant General brother 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Presidential Council chairman and supreme commander of the Armed Forces, has paid a visit to a special unit of the Armed Forces, before it proceeds to the city of al-Ghaydha' in the al-Mahra Governorate to perform the national duty of keeping security and tranquility there.

The brother president exhorted the brother officers, non-commissioned officers, and ranks to exert themselves in shouldering the national task with which they are being entrusted and to build on the successes achieved by our Armed Forces as they valiantly confronted the rebels and crushed their insurrection and snuffed out the sedition through which they sought to tear the homeland asunder to further selfish interests and gratify their own whims. The credit for the successes achieved, he said, should go to God and the support of our Yemeni people, who rallied to defend unity against all odds. He indicated that the recent developments are deplorable and emphasized that they were imposed on the homeland by the rebels.

Our country, he said, will begin a new phase, now that the people have consolidated their unity and consecrated it with chaste blood. Reconstruction and rehabilitation will receive priority attention, the president declared. We will also forge relations with all the brotherly and friendly states based on cooperation and mutual respect and noninterference in each other's internal affairs. It would be best if we did not allow ourselves to look back on the deplorable developments, but instead looked with hope to the present and future and the task of building of a new Yemen on solid foundations. We should learn the lessons of what has happened and approach future developments with wisdom, realism, reason, and tolerance. We regret what has happened; we are children of the same homeland and people; we are resolved, with God's help, to buttress the foundations of the modern Yemeni state—democracy, political party pluralism; freedom of expression and thought; human rights; and the broadest possible popular participation in government.

The brother president, supreme commander of the Armed Forces, hailed the heroic performance of our military and security personnel, who, he said, proved faithful to their principles and up to their national responsibilities and the public trust. They were also exemplary in fulfilling their duties and national tasks. Their fight on behalf of our people's resolve to safeguard unity will remain a landmark in the militant and heroic history of this national institution in which our people take pride, emphasized the president.

Salih Receives Message From League Secretary General

JN0907144694 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 9 Jul 94

[Text] Today, Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, received brother Major General Muhammad Sa'id Bayraqdar, Arab League assistant secretary general for military affairs, who conveyed to the brother president a message from brother Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, the Arab League's secretary general. The message deals with recent developments in our country in light of the cessation of military operations and the end of the rebellion. The message stresses the Arab League's eagerness to exert every effort to help our country overcome the effects of the sedition ignited by the secessionists in the homeland and to support efforts for reconstruction and building the prosperous future of new Yemen under unity and democracy.

The brother president expressed his thanks to and appreciation of the Arab League and its secretary general for the pan-Arab role they played to resolve the Yemeni problem and their support of our country's efforts to deal with the effects of the sedition imposed by the secessionists on our people and our homeland. He said Yemeni unity is a pan-Arab gain and a basic element of security, stability, and peace in the region and the hope of pan-Arab security and the higher objectives of our Arab forces.

The president noted the orientations stressed by our country in the statement issued by the Presidential Council on 7 July in terms of implementing general amnesty, compensating those harmed by this internal sedition, adhering to democracy and political and party pluralism, as well as widening the scope of popular participation in the authority and national dialogue with respect for the Constitution and constitutional legitimacy. He stressed that the next stage is a stage of reconstruction and of overcoming the regrettable repercussions of the sedition through which the secessionists tried to destroy the homeland and to sever its unity.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Muhammad 'Abd-al-Wahab al-Sakit, head of the Arab Department in the Arab League.

Salih Receives U.S. Administration Message

JN1007183894 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 10 Jul 94

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, today received Arthur Hughes, the ambassador of the United States to our country. The ambassador conveyed to the brother president a message from the U.S. Administration regarding the latest developments in our country in light of terminating the rebellion and suppressing the domestic sedition, which the rebels had sought to ignite in the homeland in order to shatter unity.

The message also asserted the U.S. position in supporting the attitudes expressed by the Presidential Council statement, namely, comprehensive general amnesty, reconciliation, enhancing democracy, political pluralism, and freedom of expression. This is in addition to political dialogue with all political forces and political and social figures in the national arena within the context of unity and the Constitution, developing local government based on administrative and financial decentralization and broad popular participation in authority, and enhancing relations between our country and its neighbors to serve their mutual interests, security, stability, and peace in the region.

The message also asserted the U.S. eagerness to support efforts and steps undertaken by our country to overcome the effects of the crisis on all levels in order to build a strong, unified Yemen.

The brother president stressed our country's eagerness to translate the Presidential Council statement into reality. He pointed out that a new phase of political, democratic, and development efforts will begin in the Yemeni Republic with broad national participation to establish a new Yemen based on unity, democracy, pluralism, comprehensive development, social justice, a free economy, and respect for human rights.

He also stressed our country's eagerness to establish good and advanced relations with all its brothers, friends, and neighbors, stemming from positive cooperation, mutual respect, noninterference in internal affairs, and good-neighborliness.

Salih Seeking To 'Turn Over New Leaf' in Saudi Ties

JN1007175194 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 10 Jul 94

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, today received brother 'Ali al-Qutaybi, ambassador of the fraternal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Yemen. The brother president asked the ambassador to convey a message to his brother the custodian of the two holy mosques, His Majesty King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, king of Saudi Arabia. The message deals with the latest developments and issues of interest to the fraternal relations between the two neighborly countries.

The message asserted the Yemeni Republic's eagerness to turn over a new leaf in Yemeni-Saudi relations in the interest of the two fraternal Muslim and neighborly peoples and countries. This would also enhance security, stability, and peace in the region and serve the higher objectives of our Arab and Islamic nation.

Salih Denies Sudanese, Iraqi Pilots Fought in War

JN1007082894 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 10 Jul 94

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, the Presidential Council chairman, yesterday received an official and popular delegation from fraternal Sudan led by Brother Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, head of the National Transitional Council. The delegation comprises 'Abd-al-Basit Salih Sabdarat, minister of culture and information; Dr. Mustafa 'Uthman Isma'il, minister of state at the Presidency and secretary general of the World Popular Friendship Council; and a number of Sudanese officials.

The Sudanese delegation members conveyed greetings from Sudanese President Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir and the Sudanese people's congratulations for quelling the sedition, which was ignited by the rebels in order to fragment the homeland's unity. The delegation members also reaffirmed Sudan's—leadership, government, and people—support for the Yemeni unity and our people's efforts to rebuild what was destroyed by war and overcome the repercussions of the sedition. They noted that the Yemeni unity constitutes a national and pan-Arab achievement for all sons of the Arab nation and that preserving that unity is the responsibility of all sons of the nation. They said that what the Yemeni people have offered to preserve and entrench their unity—through sacrifices and baptizing it with their pure blood, and confronting the challenges imposed by the rebels against unity—is a source of pride for every Arab and Muslim who believes in the nation's unity and seeks a better future for it.

During the meeting, the delegation members invited the Presidential Council chairman to visit fraternal Sudan.

The president expressed his appreciation and gratitude for the Sudanese brothers' fraternal and pan-Arab stand, which embodies the depth of fraternal ties and demonstrates a genuine Arab spirit. He praised what the brothers in fraternal Sudan, particularly President Lt. Gen. 'Umar al-Bashir, had offered in terms of moral and humanitarian support to their brothers in the Republic of Yemen by supporting Yemeni unity and through the Sudanese medical team's contribution to treat the wounded in the military operations against the rebels. He noted that our Yemeni people will never forget the supportive stand of their brothers in the Sudan during this dilemma, which was forced by the rebels upon our people and homeland.

The brother Presidential Council chairman made a statement to the Sudanese television in which he said: In the name of the Yemeni people, we highly appreciate the position of the brothers in Sudan—government and people—which supported constitutional legitimacy in the Republic of Yemen, particularly in the past two months after the secessionists ignited the sedition. We will always be indebted to the brothers in Sudan for this, particularly President Lt. Gen 'Ali al-Bashir.

Asked about his view on the future of the Republic of Yemen, the brother president said: We wish to reassure our people and brothers in the Arab and Muslim worlds about the future of the homeland. The Presidential Council specified in its latest statement the broad lines for that future, and we will explain that in a political speech to the parliament in the next few days.

Regarding the allegations by the secessionist rebels that Sudanese elements, allegedly pilots, have participated in the fighting to the side of the forces of unity and constitutional elements, the brother Presidential Council chairman said: First, we appreciate the Sudanese brothers' moral, humanitarian, and fraternal support. Our Sudanese brothers participated in the medical field and sent doctors to treat the wounded in the battles against the rebels. As for the story on the Sudanese and Iraqi pilots, this falls within the context of the allegations which the secessionists made repeatedly and there is no truth in it. The story is part of the propaganda campaign. We do not need pilots, not from the brothers in Iraq or Sudan. If we had needed them, we would not have hesitated to announce that. But, this is part of the campaign, through which they want to make Yemen and Sudan pay for the position they have taken in support of their brothers in the Muslim countries. The bad propaganda, which says there is a scheme involving Sudan and Yemen and some countries, is a disavowal of Islam, as if Islam can be found only in Yemen and Sudan. Those who are disavowing Islam are some of the figures that show no consideration to their peoples' feelings.

Salih Thanks King Husayn for Supporting Unity

JN0907054694 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 9 Jul 94

[Text] A telephone conversation was held between brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Presidential Council chairman, and his brother His Majesty King Husayn Bin-Talal of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. During the conversation, the brother chairman briefed His Majesty King Husayn on the latest developments in our country in light of the success of our people and their Armed Forces in terminating the rebellion and extinguishing the fire of the sedition that the rebels started in the homeland to undermine its unity. He also informed King Husayn that security, calm, and normalcy have been restored to all the areas in which the rebels violating the constitutional legitimacy had existed. He indicated that our country is about to enter a new phase, the phase of reconstruction and repairing what the war has destroyed and removing its effects. He expressed his thanks and appreciation for the brothers in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and His Majesty King Husayn Bin-Talal for their noble pan-Arab stand and support for our Yemeni people and their unity and democratization process.

Salih, UAE's Zayid Discusses Rebels

JN0907053294 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 9 Jul 94

[Text] A telephone conversation was held last night between brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah

Salih, the Presidential Council chairman, and his brother His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the sisterly United Arab Emirates [UAE]. The two leaders exchanged views on the latest developments in our country in light of the termination of the rebellion and sedition through which the outlawed rebels sought to dismember the unified homeland.

The brother chairman informed his brother His Highness Shaykh Zayid that stability, calm, and tranquility have been restored to all areas that were targeted by the rebels' sedition. He indicated the great popular support for the unity and our people's success in thwarting the rebels' secessionist scheme. He stressed that the Republic of Yemen is eager to bolster and promote its friendly relations with its brothers, especially its brothers in the Arabian Peninsula and the Gulf in the service of all sides' common interests. He stressed that Yemeni unity is an important and basic element for ensuring and bolstering regional security, stability, and peace. He said that praise be to God, our country has managed to overcome the ordeal that the rebels have imposed on our people and homeland. He added that our country will start a new era of reconstruction to repair what the regrettable war has destroyed and to remove its effects. He said this will take place within the framework of tolerance and joint efforts by the entire Yemeni people to build the new Yemen under the banner of unity.

For his part, His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan stressed his country's eagerness to bolster its brotherly relations with the Republic of Yemen. He said that members of the gang of rebellion who recently arrived in the UAE will not be allowed to carry out any activity hostile to the Republic of Yemen and the Yemeni people in general from the territory of the UAE. He wished our Yemeni people further stability, progress, and prosperity.

Salih Demands Return of South Planes, Naval Vessels

JN1007102594 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0645 GMT 10 Jul 94

[Text] Sanaa, 9 Jul (INA)—An Arab League official has said that Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih today asked the Arab League to help Yemen retrieve planes and warships used by the rebels when they fled southern Yemen during the last few days of fighting.

'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Sakit, currently in Sanaa as part of the Arab League team, said the Yemeni president demanded the return of all naval vessels and planes that were based in southern Yemen on the basis that they belong to Yemen and not the rebel elements. The Arab League official did not specify the whereabouts of the vessels and planes or their number.

Defense Minister Meets Arab League, UNDP Envoys

JN1107082694 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 11 Jul 94

[Text] Defense Minister Staff Brigadier General brother 'Abd-Rabbuh Mansur Hadi has met with Major General Muhammad Sa'id Bayraqdar, Arab League assistant secretary general for military affairs; 'Awni al-'Ani, resident representative of the UN Development Program [UNDP] in our country; and Dr. Muhammad al-Sakit, the director of the Arab Homeland at the Arab League.

The conferees discussed developments in our country. The brother defense minister explained the government's efforts to serve the citizens in the Aden Governorate and to provide the city inhabitants with the necessary services following the tribulation they experienced during the gang of rebellion's control of the city and the bombardment of the services institutions, thus depriving Aden of water.

The brother defense minister said that water tanks continue to arrive to meet the citizens water needs. He stressed that the state is working to rebuild what the gang of rebellion had destroyed.

For their part, the Arab League delegation and the UNDP representative said they are happy to visit Aden and see for themselves the effects of the recent sedition in Yemen. The two sides said the Arab League and the United Nations are ready to offer assistance to overcome the effects of the war.

Al-'Attar Visits al-Mukalla, Congratulates Citizens

JN1007090094 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 10 Jul 94

[Text] Acting Prime Minister brother Dr. Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar, accompanied by Deputy Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Anisi and several ministers, deputy ministers, and officials in charge of government establishments, paid an inspection visit to the Hadhramaut Governorate to inspect the situation in the governorate and to congratulate the Hadhramaut citizens on the great success our Yemeni people have scored in protecting unity, democracy, and national achievements.

Hadhramaut Governor brother Salih 'Ubad al-Khawlani, Shabwah Governor Ahmad 'Ali Muhsin, and Hadhramaut Governorate state and military officials, were present at al-Riyan Airport to welcome brother al-'Attar and those accompanying him.

Following his arrival in al-Mukalla, the brother acting prime minister met with the brothers who are in charge of the ministries' offices, and government bodies and institutions in the Hadhramaut Governorate.

At the beginning of the meeting, Acting Prime Minister brother Dr. Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar, conveyed to the audience President leader Lieutenant General 'Ali' Abdallah Salih's greetings and, through them, to all the sons of the Hadhramaut Governorate. He also congratulated them on the great success scored by our Yemeni people and their Armed forces, the forces of unity and constitutional legitimacy, when they defeated the secessionist and traitorous conspiracy and repulsed the rebels who tried, through their acts of treason, to fragment the homeland and wipe out its democratic and national achievements. He also emphasized that with God's will, and the determination of the sons of the homeland and their heroic struggle all conspiracies have foundered. Thanks to their determination and their support for the forces of legitimacy, the people have forged the epic of safeguarding unity and attaining security, stability, and development.

Dr. al-'Attar praised the national spirit and the sense of responsibility demonstrated by the sons of the Hadhramaut Governorate when they supported their brotheirs in the forces of unity and legitimacy to confront the rebel elements until victory was attained. He said: The tasks we have to carry out dictate on us all to have a sense of national responsibility and to boost morale to tackle the effects of the conspiracy and proceed toward national reconstruction in all fields.

The brother acting prime minister said that the government is preparing urgent plans and programs to redress the situation the rebels have tried to disrupt so that they may fulfill their treacherous objectives, and to rebuild the services and production sectors the rancorous had destroyed. He said that the Presidential Council has issued instructions to immediately start tackling the effects of the war which the rebels have imposed on our people and to give priority to affairs connected with the citizens' daily life. He noted that the command and the government pay special attention to the Hadhramaut Governorate which is expected to have a promising future.

Brother al-'Attar called on all those working in the Hadhramaut Governorate, and on political and social figures to work as one team and to mobilize all potentials to realize the task they have been entrusted with carrying out within the framework of the reconstruction battle.

Hadhramaut Governor Salih 'Ubad al-Khawlani also spoke at the meeting. He reviewed the state of affairs in the governorate, and the damage and destruction that have befallen the institutions at the hands of the rebels. He addressed the audience on efforts that are being made to remedy this situation in a manner that would secure that services be provided to the citizens in all the governorate's districts.

In light of the findings during the visit, the acting prime minister asked the brother ministers and officials in charge of the state institutions to pay field visits to the branches of their ministries and institutions in al-Mukalla to see for themselves the extent of the damage that has befallen these branches at the hands of the rebel elements, and to propose quick solutions to repair the damage. He also called for the expeditious tackling and normalization of the situation in the security field and to enhance stability in the services sector, and reactivate the work at the ministry branches and institutions so that they may assume their role of providing normal services to the citizens.

Council Member, Others Pay Inspection Visit to Aden

JN1107065794 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 11 Jul 94

[Text] Brother 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, member of the Presidential Council, accompanied by a number of officials, yesterday visited the Aden Governorate. The aim of the visit was to inspect the government offices and economic and services installations damaged as a result of the destructive acts carried out by the gang of rebellion before they fled the city. The Presidential Council member visited B'ir Nasir, where he was acquainted with the efforts of the technical team of the Public Establishment for Water and Sewerage to resume the pumping of water into Aden and to repair damage to the main network caused by the apostate gang's intensive shelling of the area. The technicians gave a briefing on the progress of work to resume the water supply. They said that the water pumping network had been repaired. However, when pumping began, it was found that some main pipes in the area located between al-Hawtah and Bi'r Nasir had also been affected. Thus, the technicians had to stop pumping until the pipes are fixed. Brother 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani thanked them for their sincere efforts, and asked that work be expedited to restore water supply to Aden as soon as possible.

Afterward, the Presidential Council member headed for Aden city, where he was welcomed by brother Aden Governor Taha Ahmad Ghanim, Colonel Dirhim Nu'man, Ma'rib Governor Colonel Yahya al-Shami, 'Abd- al-Wasi' Sallam, and a number of officials. The Presidential Council member inspected the process of distributing relief supplies among citizens. The relief supplies have either been contributed by citizens throughout the republic or prepared by government agencies. He instructed that food and medical supplies and water be provided to citizens and their suffering minimized. He later chaired a meeting of officials in the Aden Governorate. At the outset, the Presidential Council member delivered a speech in which he conveyed the greetings and congratulations of brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Presidential Council chairman, on the success of our people and their Armed Forces in extinguishing the fire of the sedition that was started by the rebels in a bid to turn the hands of the clock backward. He said that the next phase requires serious work to reconstruct what the enemies of the unity have damaged, normalize life, and create tranquility among citizens. He also urged that work be intensified and performance improved in the governorate in the service of citizens who have suffered for a long time under dictatorship and terrorism.

Brother 'Abd-al-Ghani was accompanied by brothers 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Anisi and 'Abd al-Qadir Ba Jammal, deputy prime ministers; 'Abdallah al-Batani, minister fo social affairs and labor; Muhammad al-Iryani, Ta'izz governor; and a number officials.

Information Ministers Visit Aden TV, Radio Station

JN1107081394 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 11 Jul 94

[Excerpts] An expanded meeting was held at the channel two building in Aden yesterday chaired by Information Ministry Under Secretary brother Mutahhar Ahmad Taqi. The meeting was attended by officials from the first and second television channels, the radio first general program, the second program, and Ta'izz radio.

At the start of the meeting, the brother Information Ministry under secretary spoke about the regrettable and bloody events our country has experienced as a result of the sedition that was ignited by the apostate gang under traitor agent al-Bid and his criminal clique. [passage omitted]

The brother under secretary urged those working in the media organs to double their efforts to reoperate the second channel. He said that the Ministry will pay the salaries of those working in the second channel and the second program for the past two months.

Afterward, the Information Ministry under secretary visited the transmission station of the second program in al-Hiswah where he viewed the premeditated damage the station had sustained, which destroyed all its sections, transmitters, and aerials.

In a statement to the Yemeni News Agency, SABA', the brother under secretary said that it was impossible to describe the damage done to the station. He said that the station was built with the money and efforts of the Yemeni people. However, the rebels, the enemies of life, decided to leave only destruction behind them. He emphasized that the Yemeni people will not forgive those who intentionally sabotaged media and economic installations so that the unity state and the Yemeni people would not benefit from them.

He explained that the brothers in the Information Ministry will work tirelessly to restore the station to what it used to be.

The brother under secretary was accompanied on the visit by officials from the first and second channel, the second program, and the engineers who are working to reoperate the second channel.

Basindwah Urges 'Full National Reconciliation'

PM0807151694 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 8 Jul 94 p 6

[Interview with Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah by Amir Taheri in London; date not given]

[Text] [Taheri] How is the situation in the south at present?

[Basindwah] There is no north or south. There is Yemen. Unity has triumphed and secession has been defeated. We are now in complete control of the area, and leaders of the secession have fled.

[Taheri] Are you in control of all Aden?

[Basindwah] Yes. Everyone realized that there was no point in prolonging the people's suffering. We have now begun to repair the damage to the infrastructure to ensure that life returns to normal as soon as possible.

[Taheri] We heard reports about arrests and revenge murders in Aden. What truth is there in this?

[Basindwah] Those reports are untrue. We have issued a general amnesty. I can confirm that no one has been arrested, except some looters.

[Taheri] Does the amnesty include leaders of the secession?

[Basindwah] Yes, except the 16 leaders named following the announcement of the secession. In fact some of the captured fighters have been released. We want to turn the entire page.

[Taheri] And what is going to be done now?

[Basindwah] The big task ahead of us is to heal the wounds and achieve full national reconciliation. We have to do a great deal for the sake of all the people of Yemen.

[Taheri] Fine. But what should be done now?

[Basindwah] The government will soon organize a national conference in Sanaa to study what happened and to conduct a national dialogue. All parties will participate in the conference. We do not want there to be winners and losers. All we want is for all Yemenis to feel they are winners.

[Taheri] Including the Yemeni Socialist Party?

[Basindwah] Yes, of course. The party is an important political force in our country. And it should have a role that befits it. Consultations are being made to hold a special conference for the party..

[Taheri] For what purpose?

[Basindwah] To choose a new leadership, instead of its leaders who have fled the country. Because the fugitive leaders should be judged and held responsible for what happened. Then the party would, of course, return to the (Yemeni) political scene to play its role in the government and the parliament.

[Taheri] Do you have any information about the whereabouts of 'Ali Salim al-Bid and his main allies?

[Basindwah] Yes. But I do not want to talk about them. You can obtain the information you want by yourself.

[Taheri] What will be the fate of Lakhdar Brahimi's mission? Or, rather, the fate of the UN role?

[Basindwah] With regard to the political issues, the mission and the role have ended. However, the United Nations can help us in the relief operations. In fact we expect all world states to help our people to repair the damage inflicted on the country.

[Taheri] Is your statement addressed to the region's states as well?

[Basindwah] It is primarily addressed to them. We want to hold urgent talks with all these states to improve and strengthen our relations with them. We want to turn the entire page and to forget what happened. Because Yemen is seeking to be an influential and positive member of the regional community.

[Taheri] But some people in the region regard President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih as "a little Saddam."

[Basindwah] I stress to you that that description is unfair. I know the president and I know his intentions. Let me remind you that I opposed our policy, which sympathized at the beginning with the Iraqi position during the Kuwait crisis. We all in Sanaa know that that policy was erroneous. But all we want is for others to judge us in the light of our conduct now and in the future and the policies we are going to pursue.

At any rate, I would like to emphasize what I am going to say: We will be cautious in our behavior from now on. We do not want any problems. I am hoping to make a series of visits soon. The aim of these visits will be to raise all issues, to say all that we have been able to say since since the Kuwait crisis, to clear the air, and to mend the rift. We are the government in Yemen, and the region's states, and indeed the world, should accept this reality. It is in no one's interests to prevent matters from returning to normal.

Views National Unity Government

NC1007193294 London MBC Television in Arabic 1810 GMT 10 Jul 94

[Text] [Announcer] It was announced in Yemen today that Saywun, the second largest city in Hadhramaut, has fallen. News agencies reported that looting continued in Aden because of the bad economic conditions, despite strict government orders.

Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has summoned government officials from abroad for consultations to form a national unity government.

Yemeni Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah spoke to the MBC in London before leaving for Cairo on his way back to Sanaa:

[Basindwah] According to what I know of brother President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, I can say that this government will truly be a government of national unity, because President Salih is inclined to include representatives of all the effective political forces in the government.

[Announcer] We asked the Yemeni minister about the amnesty decision and whether the new government would include opposition figures.

[Basindwah] We have no reservations about the return of anyone who wishes to return to his homeland. If he does not wish to return and chooses to stay abroad, that is his right, provided he does not engage in any hostile activity against the state. I do not think that any fraternal country would allow any of these rebels to engage in activity against the Yemeni Republic from their territories.

[Announcer] In his capacity as foreign minister, we asked Basindwah about Yemen's regional and international relations.

[Basindwah] We will continue to pay primary attention to the relations with neighboring countries. We hope that neighboring countries will realize that we are anxious to develop relations with them irrespective of what happened in the immediate or distant past. We are neighbors living in the same area and must coexist as one family. Of course, we will also devote attention to our relations with the other fraternal and friendly states. We hope that all the fraternal and friendly states will appreciate the circumstances imposed on us by the regrettable war in which we had no choice.

Al-'Lawzi on 'Futility' of YSP Forming Government

LD1007163394 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1411 GMT 10 Jul 94

[Excerpts] Doha, 10 Jul—Yemeni Information Minister Hasan al-'Lawzi, today ruled out that "the government which a number of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] who are on the run intend to form in exile will have any effect at the internal or external levels."

Al-'Lawzi, who is currently visiting Qatar, stressed the futility of forming a government in exile by YSP members who sought refuge abroad, describing that as "ploughing the sea and planting the sand."

In statements to a KUNA correspondent here, al-'Lawzi asked "what would those benefit from this government?" Pointing out that "the insurgence forces could not do anything through their military operations inside, therefore, what would they do with political action outside the Yemeni arena?"

He renewed his call to all those whom he called "rebels, beguiled, and outlaws" to benefit from the tolerance of the legitimacy and the announced general amnesty decision, especially after control over all Yemeni territory has been completed.

In connection with the number of planes that were in the south and that sought refuge in [words indistinct], al-'Lawzi affirmed that the authority in Yemen has asked for the mediation of the Arab League to hand over all civilian and military planes "owned by the government." [passage omitted]

Concerning what has been discussed during his meeting with the Qatari health minister, al-'Lawzi said that he discussed the means for developing bilateral relations between the two countries, especially health and medical issues.

Government Seeks To Forestall Rebel Activity Abroad

NC0907124594 Paris AFP in English 1128 GMT 9 Jul 94

[By Abderrahman Haidari]

[Text] Sanaa, July 9 (AFP)—The northern Yemeni authorities have launched a diplomatic drive to prevent southern separatists waging an armed struggle from neighbouring countries after the fall of Aden.

The official northern news agency SABA' said Saturday Sanaa had been holding high-level contacts weth Oman, where southern separatist leader 'Ali Salim al-Bid obtained political asylum.

"Oman assured Yemen ... of its support for Yemeni unity and its wish to strengthen bilateral relations on the basis of mutual respect and non-interference in internal affairs," SABA' said.

Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih told Arab leaders by telephone Friday he wanted to ensure peace in his country, following two months of civil war which culminated in northern troops occupying Aden Thursday.

SABA' said he received an assurance from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) head of state, Shaykh Zayid Bin Sultan al-Nuhayyan, that southern Yemeni leaders who had "recently arrived in the Emirates, will not be able to carry out any activity hostile" to Sanaa.

Officials in Abu Dhabi Saturday denied that any southern leaders had arrived in the UAE, but Gulf diplomats said several dozen southern leaders, including Yasin Sa'id Nu'man of the Yemen Socialist Party (YSP) secretariat, had fled there.

Salih thanked King Husayn of Jordan and Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi for their support over "unity and democracy in Yemen," SABA' reported.

Meanwhile a Yemeni envoy was sent to Doha to pass on a message from Salih to the Emir of Qatar thanking him for his support in the conflict which erupted on May 5, shattering four years of fragile union between north and south.

Qatar, Jordan and Libya, along with Iraq, all condemned the southern rebellion, while the UAE and four other Gulf monarchies implicitly recognised the breakaway southern Yemen Democratic Republic proclaimed on May 21.

Contacts had also been made to "overcome the differences between Sanaa and Riyadh," an official in the Yemeni capital said Saturday.

A group of 30 separatist leaders and their families flew to Saudi Arabia from Djibouti on Friday after refusing to concede defeat in the war.

The group, including breakaway south Yemen's "vice-president" 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Jifri, had sailed to Djibouti from Aden when it fell Thursday.

Al-Jifri said "internal resistance is continuing throughout the country, in Aden itself and in Lahj, Shabwah and Hadramaut province."

But Sanaa later announced the fall of the separatists' "last bastion"—Al-Ghaydah near the Omani border.

The Saudi Government Friday condemned north Yemen's "obstinate" resort to military might and urged the start of an unconditional dialogue.

Sanaa later warned Saudi Arabia against aiding southern separatists and said it hoped to turn over a new leaf in relations with its oil-rich neighbour.

"Any further destabilization in Yemen cannot be done without outside help," said Yemeni Planning Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani at UN headquarters in New York.

"Therefore I am predicting that all our neighbours will not assist in destabilizing Yemen."

The north accused Riyadh of financing arms supplies to the south in the two-month conflict.

Saudi Arabia also played a key role in securing the adoption of UN Security Council Resolutions 924 and 931 which called for an immediate ceasefire and political dialogue.

"It is very unfortunate that a secessionist group was provided with MiG-29s and self-propelled artillery costing millions of dollars," said al-Iryani. "It is a sad note, but we would like to close this chapter."

Al-Iryani gave a letter to UN Secretary General Butros Butros- Ghali Thursday pledging to end all hostilities and seek a national dialogue.

A government official said Saturday consultations were in progress in Sanaa between political parties, including the YSP, aimed at setting up a government of national unity.

The new government would be headed by al-Iryani, the official added.

Sanaa announced an amnesty for all southern separatists apart from al-Bid and 15 of his closest associates.

Al-Iryani: All Southern Leaders Covered by Amnesty

NC0907152094 Paris AFP in English 1242 GMT 9 Jul 94

[Text] Dubayy, July 9 (AFP) - All southern separatist leaders are covered by a general amnesty announced by the authorities in Sanaa, including 16 who were excluded before, Yemeni Planning Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani said in a statement published Saturday [9 July].

Al-Iryani told the London-based Saudi daily AL-HAYAH: "the general amnesty applies to everyone, including the 16 who had been excluded" when the amnesty was first announced on May 23. Sanaa confirmed the amnesty Thursday.

The paper said the main southern separatist leader 'Ali Salim al-Bid was among the 16, along with "vice-president" of the breakaway southern state 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Jifri and "defence minister" Haytham Qasim Tahir.

After northern troops entered Aden Thursday al-Jifri and Tahir sailed to Djibouti and then flew to Saudi Arabia with other southern officials.

Al-Bid fled to Oman after al-Mukalla, 700 kilometres (434 miles) further east, was captured earlier in the week.

The Yemeni presidential council said Thursday it was determined to implement the amnesty decreed on May 23 for "all civilians and soldiers who acted against the constitution on the orders of the separatist clique." But it made no mention of the 16, for whom arrest warrants had been issued.

Iryani handed UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali a letter Thursday pledging Sanaa's commitment to ending the war, helping the population, amnestying the "rebels" and compensating for losses incurred in the fighting.

Sanaa also pledged to respect freedoms and open a national dialogue.

Al-Lawzi: Some YSP Members Denied Amnesty

LD0907152294 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1355 GMT 9 Jul 94

[Excerpts] Doha, 9 Jul (KUNA)—Yemeni Information Minister Hasan al-Lawzi said his country is evaluating relations with sisterly countries in the region so as to restore and repair ties. He told KUNA here today that "Security and stability in Yemen strengthens security in the region, and restores the objective view toward ties that were marred with ambiguities and many errors, which we hope will not be repeated." [passage omitted]

Asked if Socialist Party members in Yemen could return and live in the country, Al-Lowzi confirmed their right to benefit from the general amnesty. He clarified that in the light of the general and comprehensive amnesty, many of the party's members would return to practice their roles and carry on with their work, particularly since the Socialist Party was a partner in the government.

"Some of the 16 members in the Socialist Party, who have been excluded from the prosecutor general's call granting an amnesty concerning the dispute in Yemen, are now participating in a dialogue with the Yemeni Government, either in New York or in some other citiy," he said.

He said that the legitimate authority in his country would have a clear and specific position toward those who committed unforgiveable crimes.

Al-Zindani Notes Importance of Ties With Neighbors

JN1007181794 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 10 Jul 94

[Text] Brother 'Abd-al-Majid al-Zindani, Presidential Council member, has said that Yemen's unity is a source of strength for all Arabs, as well as being a factor for regional security and stability.

Interviewed by Qatar's state television, al-Zindani said our brothers can count on Yemen's support during the hard times. Yemen and its people, he said, will not undervalue their fraternal ties with the neighboring and Arab and Islamic states. He advised that the Arab states let God's word, reason, and logic be the arbiter in all their bilateral disagreements in order for them to be able to thwart the efforts of those who try to create sedition and rifts among brothers. He expressed his appreciation for all brothers and friends who stood by our people during their ordeal and supported unity and democracy. Yemen's unity is beneficial to our country and the region and all Arabs and Muslims, he emphasized.

Sanaa Denies Killing Aden's Governor

NC0907203294 Paris AFP in English 2010 GMT 9 Jul 94

[Text] Sanaa, July 9 (AFP)—Northern Yemeni authorities strongly denied Saturday [9 July] that their troops arrested or killed Aden's governor Munassir al-Sayli, as southern leaders had charged.

"The spreading of such information is perhaps designed to camouflage a crime carried out by the rebels against one of their own supporters," an official spokesman said.

He added that "the media, which was controlled by the secessionists, had not mentioned any activity by al-Sayli for several weeks."

The breakaway south's "prime minister," Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, told the Kuwaiti news agency KUNA earlier Saturday that al-Sayli, who chose to stay in the port city after its capture by northern troops on Thursday, had been arrested and killed by northern troops.

The northern spokesman added that Sanaa forces "freed more than 3,700 political prisoners, mostly in jail, for refusing to fight alongside the southerners in the war."

New Governor Appointed

LD1007175494 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1620 GMT 10 Jul 94

[Excerpts] Aden, 10 Jul—The Yemeni Army forces have started withdrawing from the city of Aden, while the citizens' suffering and fear continue as a result of the increase in the acts of looting and the possibility of being subjected to acts of revenge at the hands of the northerners. [passage omitted]

At the level of the new measures that were initiated with the northerners' entry into the city of Aden, the KUNA correspondent mentioned that Taha Ahmad Ghanim, the new governor of the city of Aden, has today assumed his duties and met some of the under secretaries of the southern Ministries of Services, Interior, and Defense.

Engineer Sa'id Sinan, who is a southerner, but a member of the General People's Congress Party, headed by Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdullah Salih, has also been appointed today as new director of the Yemeni Airways company. [passage omitted]

At the level of the activities of the northern forces, the KUNA correspondent said that the northern forces have entered the Mahrah governorate, which is situated on the border with the Sultanate of Oman, about 850 km from Aden.

Salih Dismisses Airline Company President

JN1007051694 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0330 GMT 10 Jul 94

[Text] A Presidential decree was issued yesterday dismissing brother 'Abdallah 'Ali 'Abdallah from his post as president of the Yemen Airlines Company, Alyemda, and appointing brother Sa'id Sinan as acting president and director of the company. The decree goes into effect as of the date of its issuance.

Northern Troops Distribute Food, Water in Aden

NC0807183494 Paris AFP in English 1814 GMT 8 Jul 94

[By Muhammad 'Attar]

[Text] Aden, Yemen, July 8 (AFP)—Northern Yemeni troops distributed food and water to the population of Aden and guarded key buildings Friday [8 July] as life began to return to normal in the port city after weeks of bitter fighting.

The forces loyal to President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih brought water into Aden in tanker trucks from the northern city of Ta'izz while other trucks distributed food.

Meanwhile the United Nations announced it would send emergency aid to Aden and Abyan province—the two areas of the south worst affected by the war.

Defence Minister 'Abd-Rabbuh Mansur toured Aden a day after northern forces captured the city and declared the southern "rebellion" over.

Northern troops were posted in strength at key crossroads and outside banks and government buildings to stop looting.

The interior ministry issued a stern warning that tough measures would be taken against looters, but thefts continued.

After the city fell to northern forces Thursday residents were seen looting shops, offices and government buildings, including the former presidential mansion.

A desperate water shortage was eased Thursday when the International Committee of the Red Cross sent in nine tanker trucks.

The city had been cut off for 10 days from a vital water pumping station at Bi'r Nasir, 15 kilometres (nine miles) to the north, which was damaged in the fighting.

The day after northern forces on Thursday captured the town, Aden's markets came back to life and fresh vegetables were available again.

The local television station resumed broadcasts, announcing that the southern leaders had "fled with no hope of returning."

Victorious troops destroyed cases of wine, whisky and vodka throughout Aden, tossing bottles onto bonfires and setting a warehouse ablaze in the port, sending a thick plume of smoke skywards.

Troops also stopped cars and confiscated bottles of alcohol which they then smashed.

Alcohol is forbidden by Islam and north Yemen observes the ban.

Separatist Yemeni leaders left Djibouti for Saudi Arabia on Friday after refusing to concede defeat in a two-month war against the northern forces.

'Abd-al-Rahman al-Jifri, breakaway south Yemen's "vice-president," boarded the flight along with about 30 colleagues and family who had sailed with him to Djibouti from Aden when it fell Thursday, officials said.

The government of Saudi Arabia—which provided the Boeing 737 for the group—on Friday condemned north Yemen's resort to military might and urged the start of an unconditional dialogue.

Salih's southern rival and former vice president 'Ali Salim al-Bid and many of his aides had fled Yemen for neighbouring Oman, Arab diplomats and other sources said.

Al-Jifri said most of the leaders of the breakaway state proclaimed on May 21 would meet Friday to plan strategy, but he refused to name the place. Al-Bid might attend, he added.

Saudi Arabia played a key role in diplomatic efforts in the United Nations to broker a ceasefire. Sanaa accused it of financing arms supplies to the south.

Al-Jifri told AFP that "internal resistance is continuing throughout the country, in Aden itself and in Lahij, Shabwah and Hadhramaut province."

He said southern troops were still active in several regions, and resistance would continue until Salih's "hordes leave our country."

Travelling with al-Jifri were southern "deputy prime minister" Sulayman Mas'ud, "defence minister" Haytham Qasim Tahir, "interior minister" Muhammad 'Ali Ahmad and "social affairs minister" Hazima Shukri, officials said.

The United Nations decided to send emergency aid consisting of food, medicines and water distribution equipment to Aden and Abyan, a UN spokesman said in Sanaa Friday.

Naib Friji said the UN Development Programme and UN Population Fund were providing 100,000 dollars for the aid package.

The World Food Programme was providing food for 200,000 people and the World Health Organisation would send 11 tonnes of medicines.

The war broke out May 5 after a nine-month struggle between al- Bid and Salih over sharing power in Yemen, created when former Marxist South and conservative North Yemen merged in May 1990.

Oil Production in al-Masilah 'Proceeding Normally'

JN0807170094 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 8 Jul 94

[Text] Oil and Mineral Resources Minister Faysal Bin-Shamlan and Hadhramaut Governor Salih 'Ubad al-Khawlani yesterday visited the al-Shihr oil exporting port in the Hadhramaut Governorate. They observed work at the port's oil installations.

The brother minister and the brother governor also visited oil installations in the al-Masilah area, where they met with officials, engineers, and workers, and were briefed on production operations, which are proceeding normally.

Regular Flights With Outside World Resume 8 Jul

JN0807132594 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 Jul 94

[Text] The General Civil Aviation and Meteorology Authority has announced the resumption of regular Arab and foreign air flights. Authority Chairman brother Muhsin al-Yusufi has said: Now that the acts of rebellion have ceased, and the circumstances forced on our country by the gang of renegades and secessionists have been terminated, and stability and security have been reestablished, the General Civil Aviation Authority would like to congratulate the Yemeni people and announce the resumption of its regular work on all air routes operating between the Republic of Yemen and the outside world as of today, Friday.

Southern Leaders' Departure; Asylum Plea Denied

PM0807141294 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 8 Jul 94 pp1, 4

[Reports by 'Abdallah Hammudah, Naji al-Harazi, and Lutfi Shatarah in London, Hammud Munsir in Sanaa, Khalil Matar in New York, Muhammad Sadiq in Washington, Sawsan Abu-Husayn in Cairo, and Sa'id 'Isa in Muscat: "Al-Bid in Oman and al-Jifri in Djibouti; Southern Pledges To Continue the Fighting"]

[Excerpts] Democratic Yemen's Vice President 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Jifri left Aden for Djibouti before sunset yesterday. He was accompanied by Presidential Council Member Sulayman Nasir Mas'ud, Defense Minister Staff Brigadier General Haytham Qasim Tahir, Deputy Prime Minister Muhammad Haydar Masdus, Interior Minister Muhammad 'Ali Ahmad, Social Security Minister Dr. Hazim Shukri, and a number of other southern political and military leaders. Muhsin Muhammad Bin-Farid, southern deputy prime minister and secretary general of the Sons of Yemen League, has stated that "al-Jifri ordered everyone carrying arms in Aden to cease their fire to deny Sanaa's forces the chance to destroy the city."

Southern National Assembly Member and former Housing Minister Muhammad Ahmad Sulayman and southern State Minister 'Abd-al-Wasi' Salam also left Aden with al-Jifri but it is rumored that Aden Governor Salih Munsir al-Siyayli still refuses to leave and insists on staying in Aden. [passage omitted]

Yemeni diplomatic sources have confirmed that southern leader 'Ali Salim al-Bid has arrived in the Sultanate of Oman accompanied by a number of political and military officials but they denied that he requested or was granted political asylum there. They emphasized that he intends to return to Yemen. They were reacting to reports that he and five of his colleagues had been granted political asylum in the Sultanate of Oman.

The sources spoke of "al-Bid's determination to continue the political work and the armed struggle for the restoration of Democratic Yemen's independence." They added that getting asylum would mean that he would be prohibited from carrying out any political activity.

According to south Yemeni political sources, al-Bid will hold a series of meetings with the members of the Presidential Council, the cabinet, and the military commands to make a comprehensive review of the situation in Yemen following the fall of Aden and al-Mukalla to the northern forces, and to salvage what can be salvaged. 'Abd-al-Qawi Makkawi, member of the Defense Council and the Presidential Council, left Cairo yesterday to participate in these meetings.

Asked if these meeting would be held in Muscat, Muhsin Bin-Farid said that consultations are still in progress on that point and that the venue has not been decided yet. [passage omitted]

South Officers, Families Flee to Djibouti

NC0907151594 Paris AFP in English 1339 GMT 9 Jul 94

[Text] Athens, July 9 (AFP)—Two hundred and twenty four Aden refugees, mostly southern army officers and their families, have landed in Djibouti aboard a commandeered Greek cargo ship, the Greek Merchant Marine ministry said Saturday [9 July].

The refugees, many of whom were armed, seized the cargo ship "Trader Ambassador" on Thursday, which was flying the Liberian flag, and forced the crew, five Greeks and 20 foreigners, to head to Djibouti, the ministry said.

Passengers and crew arrived safe in Djibouti Friday, it added.

The cargo ship, anchored in the port of Aden since last April, belongs to the Marine Management Service based in the Athens port of Piraievs, the ministry said.

Paper Lists Whereabouts of Southern Leaders

PM0807170694 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 8 Jul 94 p1

[Unattributed report: "The Southern Leaders and Their Whereabouts"]

[Text] President 'Ali Salim al-Bid—Salalah, the Sultanate of Oman.
Prime Minister Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas—New York.
Defense Minister Haytham Qasim Tahir—Djibouti.
Aden Governor Salih Munsir al-Siyayli—Aden.
Natinal Assembly Member Qasim 'Abd-al-Rabb—Damascus.
National Assembly Member Ahmad 'Ubayd Bin-Daghir—Damascus.
National Assembly Speaker Anis Hasan Yahya—Washington.
Oil Minister Salih Abu-Bakr Bin-Husaynun—killed on the Fawh front.
Vice President 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Jifri—Djibouti.
Senior military commander Qasim Yahya—Salalah.
Interior and Security Minister Muhammad 'Ali Ahmad—Djibouti.
Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] Central Committee Member Muhammad 'Ali al-Qayrahi—Cairo.
Presidential Council Member Sulayman Nasir Mas'ud—Djibouti.
Presidential Council Member Salim Salih Muhammad—Moscow.
Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, head of the YSP's secretariat—Abu-Dhabi.
Shabwah Governor Ahmad Farid al-Suraymah—Hadramaut.

South Leader Claims 'Internal Resistance' Countrywide

NC0807131494 Paris AFP in English 1218 GMT 8 Jul 94

[Text] Dubai, July 8 (AFP)—A southern Yemeni leader said Friday [8 July] resistance was continuing throughout the south against troops loyal to President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih who captured the key port cities of Aden and al-Mukalla.

'Abd-al-Rahman al-Jifri, "vice-president" of the breakaway Yemen Democratic Republic set up on May 21, told AFP "internal resistance is continuing throughout the country, in Aden itself and in Lahij, Shabwah and Hadhramaut province."

Al-Jifri, speaking by telephone from Djibouti, said southern troops were still active in several regions, and resistance would continue until Salih's "hordes leave our country."

Al-Jifri arrived in Djibouti from Aden Friday on board a Liberian-registered cargo vessel along with several other southern leaders, fleeing soldiers and civilians, including women and children.

The officials included southern "defence minister" Haytham Qasim Tahir, "interior minister" Muhammad 'Ali Ahmad and "transport minister" Salih 'Ubayd.

The vessel, the Trade Ambassador, carried some 200 passengers, including seven senior southern officers and many soldiers.

Another ship, the Shuqra, also arrived Friday in Djibouti from Aden with 67 people on board, including at least two "ministers."

Salih's southern rival and former vice president 'Ali Salim al- Bid and many of his aides had fled Yemen for neighbouring Oman, Arab diplomats and other sources said.

Al-Jifri told AFP by telephone that most of the leaders of the breakaway state would meet Friday to plan strategy, but he refused to name the place. Al-Bid might attend, he added.

The north declared victory in their two-month war to crush the southern "rebellion" after capturing Aden on Thursday.

The war broke out after a nine-month struggle between al-Bid and Salih over sharing power in Yemen, created when former Marxist South and conservative North Yemen merged in May 1990.

Al-'Attas: Government in Exile To Continue Fighting

LD0907133894 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1110 GMT 9 Jul 94

[Excerpts] United Nations, 9 Jul (KUNA)—A southern Yemeni official has announced that the leadership of the southern part of Yemen intends to form a government in exile pledged to continue the fighting.

In a statement to KUNA, the official—Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, prime minister of the republic declared in Aden last May—said it would be possible to form a government inside Yemen in the areas which are still under the southern leadership's control.

Al-'Attas confirmed that unity cannot be imposed by force, therefore fighting must continue. He also said that a large area of land remains under the control of the southern forces. [passage omitted]

Al-'Attas did not specify when he will be leaving New York or what his destination will be. [passage omitted] He said that he has drawn the attention of the UN secretary general and the chairman of the UN Security Council to the hostile practices committed by northern forces against the population of Aden and other areas. He added: They are abducting people, looting houses, and killing Aden's population. He added that he has been informed that northern forces have arrested and killed the governor of Aden, who chose to remain in the city. [passage omitted]

Al-Jifri Says Guerrillas Preparing Attacks on North

NC1107132694 Paris AFP in English 1250 GMT 11 Jul 94

[Text] Dubai, United Arab Emirates, July 11 (AFP)—Guerrillas are preparing attacks against northern forces "occupying" south Yemen where large quantities of weapons have been hidden, an exiled southern leader said Monday [11 July].

'Abd-al-Rahman al-Jifri, "vice president" of the breakaway southern state declared on May 21, told AFP: "Guerrilla groups are getting organised in southern Yemen and will end up shaking the northern occupation."

Al-Jifri, speaking from Jeddah in Saudi Arabia, said many "of our weapons were hidden in the south's interior, shortly before we left Aden."

Al-Jifri and other southern leaders fled Yemen after the south's stronghold of Aden fell to northern troops on Thursday, following two months of civil war.

"We will resist by all means possible the occupation of the south of the country by the Sanaa regime," al-Jifri said, adding that "several regions are out of their control."

A northern official said Saturday the "last bastion of (southern) secessionists" had fallen when northern troops captured the town of al-Ghaydah on the border with Oman.

Al-Jifri also said he wanted to begin "an unconditional dialogue" with the Sanaa government on the Yemeni conflict.

"We support dialogue on the basis of UN Security Council resolutions, which reject any political settlement based on force," he said.

UN Resolutions 924 and 931 called for an immediate ceasefire in the fighting, which erupted on May 5, and the start of talks between the two sides.

Northern troops loyal to President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih marched into the eastern port of al-Mukalla, the headquarters of southern leader 'Ali Salim al-Bid, last week before seizing control of Aden on Thursday.

But southern leaders say the breakaway Yemen Democratic Republic (YDR), which no country has recognised, still exists.

Breakaway leaders are "in permanent meeting" at Jeddah, al-Jifri said. "We are also in contact with president 'Ali Salim al-Bid, who is temporarily based in Oman."

He said the advance of northern troops into southern Yemen was "contrary to international law," and condemned "the extortion, arrests and looting perpetrated by the Sanaa regime, especially in Aden."

Unidentified armed gangs have gone on the rampage in the port city, which is already suffering from severe shortages of drinking water and medical equipment.

Hospitals, public offices and shops have been ransacked despite stern warnings from the authorities and numerous military checkpoints on roads around the city.

"When we left, we had food reserves to last six months, which the Sanaa regime has totally looted to put back on the market at exorbitant prices," al-Jifri charged.

He added that boats loaded with supplies, mostly collected by Yemeni emigrants, had been "stranded in the Red Sea for several days."

He called on the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to take charge of the cargoes "to distribute them directly to Aden's residents" or to hand them over to a new body called the Committee to Safeguard Aden.

The non-governmental committee was formed in the last few days and is headed by 'Umar al-Jawi, secretary general of the opposition Yemeni Unionist Party.

Al-Jawi told AFP that looters continued to rampage around Aden.

"Equipment to unload containers have disappeared from Aden port" he said, calling on the government to stop the looting and pull its troops out of the city.

Al-Jifri Warns Foreign Companies Not To Deal With Sanaa

NC1007133494 Paris AFP in English 1257 GMT 10 Jul 94

[Text] Riyadh, July 10 (AFP)—Southern Yemeni "vice president" 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Jifri, who fled to Saudi Arabia after the fall of Aden, on Sunday [10 July] warned foreign companies operating in the south not to do business with the authorities in Sanaa.

Al-Jifri told the London-based Saudi daily AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that southern leaders would prevent deals with Sanaa "by all possible means."

"We warn all companies operating in the south of Yemen that resources from our territory belong to the Yemen Democratic Republic (YDR)" declared by the south on May 21, he said.

Any transaction with Sanaa concerning "resources taken from our territory," would be "illegal and hostile to the people of southern Yemen," he said.

"We will have the right to prevent, by all possible means and at any cost, all investment agreements over oil, mining, agriculture and industry as well as fishing, which foreign companies sign with Sanaa."

Al-Jifri and other breakaway southern leaders fled Yemen when Aden fell to northern forces on Thursday.

The YDR "remains an authority both inside and outside the country and represents national legitimacy," al-Jifri said.

He also called on the international community to prosecute northern "war criminals" who, he said, continued "thefts, pillage, destruction of property and execution without trial of thousands" of southerners.

Asked about Sanaa's call for the release of 1,200 northern prisoners, al-Jifri said: "If there were prisoners, they must be in Sanaa's hands by now."

Meanwhile 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, former president of South Yemen which existed before the merger with the north in 1990, said "there is no solution in Yemen other than union and dialogue."

In a statement issued in Damascus, Muhammad said the north's amnesty for southerners was "a positive step to overcome the consequences of tragic events and a suitable basis for a programme of national government."

Muhammad fled Aden after being ousted in bloody factional fighting in 1986.

He said he stressed in a telephone call to Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih the need to "normalize the situation in Yemen and relations with neighbouring countries, amnesty groups and individuals, and concentrate on Aden and regions in the south and east."

Update on Situation in Aden; Police To Impose Order

NC0907172794 Paris AFP in English 1703 GMT 9 Jul 94

[By Mohammad Attar]

[Text] Aden, Yemen, July 9 (AFP)—Victorious northern Yemeni forces tightened their grip on the southern city of Aden on Saturday [9 July], as talks began on forming a new government of national unity.

Looting of shops, offices and government buildings, which began when the city fell to northern troops on Thursday died down, after warnings of tough action by authorities.

Northern soldiers reinforced checkpoints around Aden and arrested everyone with stolen goods in their cars, an APF correspondent reported.

Meanwhile several political parties, including the Aden-based Yemen Socialist Party (YSP), took part in consultations to form a new government, a government official in Sanaa said Saturday.

"The new government should include prominent political and national figures," said the official, who asked not to be named.

Life continued to return to normal in Aden after weeks of bitter fighting between northern troops loyal to President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and the forces of breakaway southern leaders.

A government spokesman said Salih had ordered the retreat of troops and heavy weapons from the port city, where order would be imposed by police.

Almost one-quarter of the city's public sector workers responded to a labour ministry call to return to work Saturday—but most found their offices stripped of desks and chairs.

Other workers could not travel to work because their transport had been stolen or vandalised.

The city's desperate water shortage was eased when the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) sent in tanker trunks from the towns of Lahj and Ta'izz to the north.

Aden has been cut off for 12 days from a vital water pumping station at Bi'r Nasir, 15 kilometres (nine miles) to the north, which was damaged in the fighting.

The ICRC said it was continuing to carry out repairs to the water pumping station on Saturday.

Electricity supplies were intermittent and local telephone lines were down, though overseas connections had resumed.

Meanwhile northern authorities made moves to neutralise southern hostility both inside and outside Yemen.

Planning Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, whom government sources tipped to head the new government of national unity, has been holding talks with southern Yemeni officials in New York under UN auspices.

Sanaa has always insisted it is ready for a dialogue with southern leaders who favour Yemeni unity, though it ruled out talks with separatist leader 'Ali Salim al-Bid and 15 of his closest aides wanted by the authorities.

Al-Iryani also told the London-based Saudi daily AL-HAYAH that a general amnesty, decreed on May 23 and repeated Thursday, "applies to everyone, including the 16 who were (initially) excluded."

Contacts were underway with neighbouring countries, said a government official who stressed Sanaa's desire to "overcome differences" with Riyadh.

The Saudi government Friday condemned north Yemen's "obstinate" resort to military might.

But separatist leaders including "vice president" 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Jifri who flew to Saudi Arabia from Djibouti Friday, met in Jeddah Saturday to "evaluate the situation," a source close to al- Jifri said.

Al-Bid, who fled to Oman when his southern base of al-Mukalla was captured earlier this week, did not attend the talks, the source said.

The south's "prime minister" Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas also announced the southern leadership's intention to form a government- in-exile and continue fighting against the north, the Kuwaiti news agency KUNA said Saturday.

Al-'Attas added that northern troops had killed Aden's former southern governor Munassir al-Sayli who had decided to stay in the city after its capture.

Sanaa To Deploy Special Troops to 'Last Stronghold'

NC0907211294 Paris AFP in English 2049 GMT 9 Jul 94

[Text] Sanaa, July 9 (AFP)—Northern Yemeni authorities are to send special troops to the town of al-Ghaydah, the last stronghold of southern separatists to be seized by northern forces, the official news agency SABA said Saturday [9 July].

The special unit was to "assure security in the governorate" of al-Mahrah in the far east of Yemen near the Omani border, the agency said without giving a date for the deployment.

An official spokesman said earlier Saturday that northern forces had seized control of al-Ghaydah and its airport.

He said the town, some 1,500 kilometres (950 miles) east of Aden, was "the last bastion of the secessionists."

President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, a northerner, told the specialist troops to "accomplish their mission with high efficiency, to continue the victories over the (southern) rebels."

'Abd-al-Rahman al-Jifri, "vice president" of the breakaway southern state proclaimed on May 21, said Friday that resistance was continuing in southern Yemen despite the fall of the main cities of Aden and al-Mukalla.

Armed Gangs Go on 'Organized Rampage' in Aden

NC1007165094 Paris AFP in English 1621 GMT 10 Jul 94

[By Mohammed Attar]

[Text] Aden, Yemen, July 10 (AFP)—Unidentified armed gangs have gone on an organised rampage in the southern Yemeni city of Aden after its capture by northern troops, ransacking shops, hospitals and government offices, witnesses said Sunday [10 July].

Wreckers have descended on almost all private and public offices in turn, staggering away with numerous files, especially from the labour ministry.

"The looting has been so widespread that it really amounts to a sacking of Aden, where no commercial or administrative activity has been spared," a witness in the port city said.

The wrecking sprees increased over the weekend despite a warning from the interior ministry in Sanaa and numerous military checkpoints on roads around the city.

The southern Yemeni television station has been ransacked, and equipment and ambulances have been stolen from hospitals.

Only the city's two main hospitals, visited regularly by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), have been spared by the gangs.

The governate's offices and the homes of former southern leaders have been stripped bare, including the seaside residence of breakaway leader 'Ali Salim al-Bid.

Al-Bid left Aden for the eastern port of al-Mukalla soon after the civil war erupted on May 5, and fled to Oman when al-Mukalla was captured last week, days before Aden fell to northern forces on Thursday.

A witness said northern troops took part in some of the looting and "liberally helped themselves."

"It feels like the town has gone back in time 50 years, the damage is so huge," the witness added.

Capuchin monks in Dubayy said Sunday they had received a call from their mission in Aden, telling them "the whole town has been sacked."

"No institution has been omitted, except the cathedral and a hospice sheltering lepers and orphans which have been spared bombs and looting," the monks said.

An aid worker told AFP: "The sacking of the city may also be explained by the fact that the new authorities are not really established yet, and are still a long way from controlling the situation."

Meanwhile Aden's 500,000 residents continued to suffer from desperate water shortages, despite ICRC tanker trucks bringing in supplies from the northern suburb of Lahj.

An ICRC worker said supplies were totally insufficient. "We have around 10 trucks but we need about 50, each with a capacity of 10,000 litres (2,600 gallons), to meet the essential needs of the population," he said.

Aden has been without running water supplies since a vital pumping station at Bi'r Nasir, 15 kilometres (nine miles) to the north, was destroyed two weeks ago in fighting.

The ICRC worker said repairs to the pumping station would take "a minimum of four weeks."

Elsewhere, Sanaa said Sunday its troops had seized control of Saywun, the second largest town in the Hadramaut province, 180 kilometres (111 miles) north of the principal city al-Mukalla.

President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih sent a message Sunday to King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, calling for "a new chapter" in relations between the two countries.

The Saudi government on Thursday condemned north Yemen's "obstinate" resort to military might.

The United States voiced support Sunday for the north's general amnesty for southerners, decreed on May 23 and repeated Thursday.

Washington expressed its "support for efforts undertaken by the Yemeni republic to overcome the consequences of the war," in a message given to Salih by the US ambassador in Sanaa.

Former President Urges Salih To Normalize Situation

NC1007055494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2300 GMT 9 Jul 94

[Text] Damascus, 9 Jul (MENA)—Former south Yemeni President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad has stated that he telephoned Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and stressed the need to normalize the situation in the country, normalize relations with neighboring countries, and show leniency to all Yemeni forces and figures.

In a statement to MENA's correspondent in Damascus, 'Ali Nasir said the Yemeni president showed an understanding of all these issues. He stressed that political dialogue is the only way to resolve the differences in the country, adding that these differences cannot be solved outside the framework of unity.

'Ali Nasir praised the Yemeni Presidential Council's decision on a general amnesty and said this represents the right and positive way to start the process to overcome the consequences of Yemen's tribulation and is a good basis for a national government program to find solutions to political and economic problems and to ease the aftermath of war.

The former Yemeni president praised the stances adopted by the Arab brothers, friendly countries, and regional and international organizations on the Yemeni crisis and urged them to continue their efforts to help overcome the crisis and ease the aftermath of war.

Calls For Tolerance Toward South

LD1007132894 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1040 GMT 10 Jul 94

[Text] [no dateline as received] In a statement distributed to press offices in Damascus late last night, 'Ali Nasir Muhammad [former south Yemen president], said that what matters at the current stage is to find a suitable solution for relations and cooperation with countries of the region, and assure neighbors that Yemen's unity is not only in the interest of Yemen itself but also serves the interests of its neighbors.

'Ali Nasir Muhammad said that he had had a telephone conversation with Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salim. He added: During the conversation I stressed the need to normalize both the internal situation and Yemen's relations with countries of the region.

It was reported yesterday that President Salih will send an envoy to Damascus today to meet 'Ali Nasir Muhammad and invite him to take the presidency of a higher national committee charged with rebuilding what was destroyed by the war.

'Ali Nasir Muhammad went on to say that he has stressed to President Salih the need to observe the issues mentioned in the communique and the decision issued by the Presidential Council. There must be tolerance, he said, toward all forces and figures, and Aden and the southern and eastern provinces must be taken care of. President Salih showed an interest in all these vital issues, 'Ali Nasir Muhammad said.

He stressed that there can be no solution to Yemen's problem outside the framework of unity and that fighting and strikes will only lead the Yemeni people to disaster and destruction. He added that political dialogue is the only possible solution to the Yemenis' differences.

He said: We believe that the presidential decision issued by Sanaa regarding a final general amnesty and the pledges taken by the acting secretary general together constitute a positive and sound prelude to overcoming the effects of the painful experience our people have gone through.

He went on to say: We consider that the presidential decision is a valid basis for the government of national unity that is needed to gather human and financial efforts in order to heal the wounds, rebuild the areas affected by the fighting, find a solution to the pending economic and political issues, and remove the effects of war.

He called for the creation of suitable conditions for a national dialogue, to include all political forces, in order to build a united Yemen. He also called for real national unity to be achieved through the reconstruction of various civilian and military institutions on sound national grounds.

At the end of his statement he expressed appreciation for the stances taken by Arab brothers, friendly countries, and regional and international organizations to put an end to the bloodshed in Yemen. He said: We call on all of them to pursue their efforts and provide help and assistance to the Yemeni people so that Yemen may overcome its ordeal and start a stage of building and reconstruction. This requires a combination of national, pan-Arab, and international efforts.

Ba'th Command Congratulates Yemen on 'Victory'

JN1007171194 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1610 GMT 10 Jul 94

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Jul (INA)—The National Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party has applauded Yemen's people, political parties, national forces, and leaders who stood as one as they defended their country's unity.

Yemen's patriotism is as genuine as its pan-Arabism and civilization, said a statement released today in reaction to the triumph of the cause of unity in Yemen. The Yemeni people were in the front ranks of those who related to the spirit of the Mother of Battles and were prepared to make sacrifices in the cause of their country's unity against the forces of apostasy and secession, which were routed and then took to flight.

The National Command extended congratulations to the Yemeni people and the Arab nation on the victory of the forces of unity. This triumph, the statement added, has been greeted positively by every Arab for purging Arab ranks of perversion and apostasy. It has also furthered Arab ability to counter any deviation and dealt a severe blow to the advocates of perversion and treason.

The Arab nation has been overjoyed by the triumph of the will of the united Yemeni people over the forces of apostasy, secession, and regression. That victory has reinforced the unionist struggle on the pan-Arab level and inflicted another defeat on anti-Arab schemes. It joins the list of the serious defeats that have been the lot of the enemies of the Arab nation; namely in the Mother of Battles, in the Palestinian intifadah, and in the Somali invasion.

When the National Command on 8 May, 1994 laid out its position on Yemeni developments and declared its unqualified support for Yemen's unity and warned against the dangers of secession, it was a principled stand inspired by the principles of the Ba'th Party, a sense of history, an appreciation of the challenges threatening Yemen as a state, people, and a key component of the Arab nation. Despite our identification with the developments in Yemen and the concern we felt about the conspiracies targeting the country's unity, the National Command had not the least doubt about the inevitability of the triumph of Yemen's unity against the challenges posed by the secessionists. This is because Yemen's patriotism is as genuine as its pan-Arabism and its civilization, and because the country's people were in the front ranks of those who related to the spirit of the Mother of Battles and were willing to make the sacrifices needed to defend Yemen's unity against the onslaught of the forces of apostasy and secession, which were routed and then took to flight.

The statement added: The unionist winds of the south have swept up the secessionist elements that spread in the Arab body and entertained the illusion that they could change the historical and cultural realities of the nation.

The Arab nation has spoken in one Yemeni tongue through the rich lessons taught by this country to assert the inevitability of unity and the inevitable victory of the will of the Arab people over the remnants of decline and secession in the Arab world and over the conspiracies of the enemies of unity and awakening.

The Ba'th Party National Command pointed out that the Arab nation has the right to declare, by virtue of this lesson, that the secessionists do not stand for national, pan-Arab, and progressive principles because they have no link whatsoever with principles, Arabism, faith, or right.

The statement urged the sons of Arabism everywhere to share with Yemen its national joy because it is a pan-Arab joy along the path of progress for the nation, thanks to its strugglers. Those strugglers are seeking to enhance the elements of unity, deepen its experiment, and turn the recent incidents into a living example of the Arab individual's ability to overcome his narrow interests throughout the stages of partition and decline.

The statement also urged all parties to reflect profoundly on the sound and comprehensive elements that produce a comprehensive effect in the service of national and pan-Arab principles, most important of which is a close link with the people to invoke the substance of the pan-Arab movement.

The statement said the jubilation over this victory must be transformed into another beacon to light the path of national action and pan-Arab struggle to mobilize national and pan-Arab forces and to expand the base of the nation's progress toward awakening and unity. In doing so, the nation should invoke its spirit of steadfastness, which has found its ultimate expression, strength, impact, firmness, and depth in the immortal Mother of Battles and its great principles. March forward, O free, victorious Arab Yemeni people along the path of unity.

The National Command noted that the Yemeni people have offered the nation's modern history two wonderful examples that clearly show that the nation's message and its cultural role in this era are deeply rooted. The National Command said that the first response was against the secession in the unity between Syria and Egypt as a result of the Yemeni revolution against reactionary forces and monarchy in 1961.

The second response during this stage comes today from Yemen through the unity's attack against secession and foiling apostasy, which tried in vain to subdue one of its dear pillars of power in order to direct its poisoned arrows at the concept of unity, if it had succeeded in its evil design.

The command stressed that a united Yemen is different than a divided Yemen because division distorts identity before it weakens the entity. Unity is a strength in all cases and is an expression of a genuine identity and a historic role of every part of the nation in building the elements of progress in the pan-Arab struggle to create the one Arab future and in reinforcing the Arab nation's role during this era.

The statement said that through this victory, the Yemeni arena has turned into an arena that radiates the national and pan-Arab principles and an arena of struggle rich in intellect and work throughout its greater homeland.

'Aziz Arrives in New York for Talks With UN Envoys

JN1107095894 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0925 GMT 11 Jul 94

[Text] New York, 11 Jul (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister, arrived in New York last night for talks at the United Nations. He is accompanied by a technical team.

It is hoped that Tariq 'Aziz will meet later today with Pakistani Ambassador Jamshed Marker, this month's president of the UN Security Council. He will also meet with the ambassadors of the UN Security Council permanent member states.

Paper Defends Closing Nightclubs, Banning Alcohol

JN1007121094 Baghdad INA in English 0900 GMT 10 Jul 94

[Text] Baghdad, July 10, INA—The English-language daily newspaper "THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER" today said the Revolution Command Council resolution ordering the closure of all night clubs and banning the sale of alcohol in public places, falls within an overall approach led by President Saddam Husayn in bringing about a balanced society whose members should always act with responsibility towards themselves and the others.

A paper editorial here said the step comes at a time when Iraq is witnessing a wide national campaign to teach the Koran in accordance with the directives and instructions of President Husayn who always indicates the importance of instilling into the minds of our youth the principles of the message of Islam to create a more balanced society.

The paper said our enemies used the tolerance of the society and the state in religious matters as a window and weak point to attack Iraq and influence some individuals within the society.

It pointed out the Iranian regime, for example, wore the cloak of religion to justify it contempt, meddling into Iraq's internal affairs and pushed the situation between Iraq and Iran to the limits of full-lives of thousands of people from both countries.

The Saudi regime for its part spent millions of dollars to beautify its image despite the fact that it is the most corrupt regime. Members of the ruling family prohibit woman driving at a time when the princes of the ruling family travel abroad to indulge themselves in womanizing and drinking activities.

The paper pointed out that the Saudis are using their money to win influence over some religious movements all over the Arab and Islamic worlds. But their cooperation with the anti-Islam powers is so obvious that their crimes cannot be ignored any longer. Therefore, the people of Saudi Arabia themselves started to express their distress at the behaviours of the ruling family. To counter the Saudi-Western alliance, there should be a front between Islamic and unionist forces in the Arab and Islamic worlds, the paper concluded.

Rabin: U.S. Troops on Golan Would Be Safe

TA1107050994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 11 Jul 94

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says Jerusalem will remain the united capital of Israel. Speaking before a delegation from the Israel Bonds, Rabin said there was still a wide gap between Israel and Syria, but he said U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher would attempt to bridge the differences. The prime minister said if American troops were eventually deployed in the Golan, they would be safe.

[Begin Rabin recording] If somebody visualizes, and a proposal came from the United States in case of a peace treaty with Syria, not before. We don't want Americans to be part of the international presence in the territories—because there there is a danger—or in UNIFIL [UN Interim Force in Lebanon] in Lebanon. But once a peace treaty is signed, we have good experience. For 15 years, almost 1,000 Americans, uniformed personnel, are stationed in the Sinai. If it was good then and now in Egypt, why will it be bad if we sign a peace treaty with Syria?

Therefore, the attempt to cheat Americans [pauses] When the senator who initiated learned about the facts he understood that he was not told the truth and he drew the bill back. And, it's a pity that some of the members of the Jewish community are exploited to the degree that they'll come to the Congress to tell lies to oppose what was discussed—even before I became prime minister between—the Government of Israel and the Government of the United States. [end recording]

Peres, Jordanian Official, Christopher To Meet

TA1107074894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 11 Jul 94

[Text] The Israeli foreign minister, the U.S. secretary of state, and a Jordanian representative will meet within nine days on the eastern side of the Dead Sea, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres announced a short time ago. Replying to a question by our correspondent Ya'el Ayalon, Minister Peres said that no meeting has been set up with King Husayn, although the king himself is on record as saying that such a meeting was possible.

Referring to the closure on Gaza, the foreign minister said that Israel's policy has not changed, and that it will act in accordance with its security needs, whenever these needs arise. Our correspondent points out that Foreign Minister Peres made these remarks at an official ceremony to welcome the Zambian president held at the presidential residence in Jerusalem.

IDF Increases Alert for Christopher Arrival

TA1007050894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 10 Jul 94

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] raises its level of alert in anticipation of both the visit here next weekend by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and the first direct meeting with Jordanian representatives in the 'Arava. The IDF soldiers were told that terror organizations are expected to attempt attacks precisely on these days.

Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that, in a meeting the IDF General Staff held with Prime Minister Rabin over the weekend, it has been determined that the IDF will continue with its determined operations against Hizballah and other terror groups in south Lebanon, and the fortification of the Army posts there. Military sources told our correspondent that the terror organizations will undoubtedly continue their efforts to disrupt the IDF deployment in south Lebanon.

Army To Seal Off Gaza Strip for 24 Hours Due to Unrest

Police Chief Announces Closure

NC1007175794 Paris AFP in English 1727 GMT 10 Jul 94

[Text] Jerusalem, July 10 (AFP)—The Israeli army has decided to seal off the autonomous Gaza Strip for 24 hours from early Monday [11 July] following unrest by Palestinian workers, a military spokesman said Sunday.

The closure from 3:00 a.m. (0000 GMT) was ordered by General Matan Vilnay, southern military commander in charge of the Strip, and agreed by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

Scuffles broke out late Saturday when thousands of Palestinian workers massed at the Erez crossing point into Israel from Gaza. A large number were found not to have work permits and were turned back by soldiers, a military spokesman said.

They began throwing stones and other objects at the soldiers, slightly wounding three of them, he said.

The Palestinian police chief for the northern area of the Strip, Sa'ib al-'Ajiz, told AFP he had been informed of the closure.

"The Israelis told us they wanted to close the Gaza Strip to repair the damage which is fairly considerable as stones were thrown at the crossing point," al-'Ajiz said.

He called on Palestinian workers to "get work permits as required under the law to avoid further disturbances."

He added that the Palestinian police had tried to stop the demonstrators "but there were too many of them."

But al-'Ajiz also urged the Israelis to reopen the crossing point "as soon as possible and authorise more Palestinians to work in Israel."

An Israeli military spokesman said the repairs would be carried out in coordination with the Palestinian police.

Under the May 4 autonomy accord which launched Palestinian self-rule in the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho, the Palestinian police force is in charge of maintaining order on the Strip.

Jerusalem TV Reports Closure

TA1007184494 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 10 Jul 94

[Text] As of tomorrow, the entry of Arab laborers from the Gaza Strip into Israel will not be allowed. The prime minister and defense minister today decided to impose a 24-hour closure on the Gaza Strip in the wake of a violent rioting which took place at the Erez roadblock early this morning. During the riot Arab laborers attacked soldiers at the roadblock and three of them were injured.

Israel To Offer Palestinians 'Self-Governing Enclaves'

TA1007131794 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 10 Jul 94 pp 1, 22

[Report by Ron Ben-Yishay]

[Text] Israel will soon offer the Palestinians the establishment of self-governing enclaves, modeled on Gaza and Jericho, in all the densely populated regions of Judaea and Samaria.

The regions and roads between the autonomous Palestinian enclaves will be under Israeli or joint Palestinian-Israeli control. The settlements and the roads leading to them (which do not cross the centers of Arab locations) will be under exclusive Israeli control.

This plan has recently been drafted by the defense establishment and the Foreign Ministry as part of the preparations for the negotiations on the interim arrangements with the Palestinians. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres have already approved it in principle, and it will be presented to the Palestinians after reaching an agreement on working procedures for the transfer of authorities from the Israeli Civil Administration to the self-governing Palestinian Authority.

According to the Oslo Declaration of Principles, after completing the stage of early empowerment, Israel and the Palestinians are to start negotiations on elections and on applying Palestinian self- government to the entire West Bank for an interim period.

The main difficulty in this regard is the status of Jewish settlements in the areas under Palestinian self-government. Unlike the situation in the Gaza Strip—where the settlements are concentrated in blocs which the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] can defend by placing units around them—the settlements in Judaea and Samaria are spread among Arab locations and roads leading to them often cross major cities such as Nabulus, Tulkarm, and Janin.

The purpose of the Israeli plan is to avoid discussing the status of the settlements during the interim stage, and to make it possible for their residents to continue their daily routine without friction with the Palestinian policemen and authorities. Therefore, instead of applying the autonomy to the entire West Bank for an interim period, Israel will suggest that the Palestinians set up regions of self-government. These regions will be connected with roads that will be supervised by Palestinian policemen or joint Israeli- Palestinian patrols.

The settlements in between the Palestinian "pockets" will be under Israeli control and responsibility, as will be the roads leading to them. Israel will also make an effort to build roads to the settlements bypassing centers of Arab population. Jerusalem will not be part of this enclaves arrangement, and its current status will be preserved.

It should be noted that, if the Palestinians accept the offer of "self-governing pockets," it will be implemented gradually and experimentally in several locations. If the experiment proves successful, additional self-governing pockets will be established.

Rabin Holds 'Consultations' Prior to Resuming Talks

TA0807140494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 8 Jul 94

[Text] At consultations held this afternoon at Prime Minister Rabin's office prior to the resumption of talks with the PLO next week, the prevailing assessment was that the remaining differences between the parties could be resolved within a short time.

Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz was neverthless told that there had been no change in Israel's positions on these issues. The outstanding disagreements pertain to the scope of Israeli withdrawal from Jericho, the stationing of Palestinian policemen on the Jordan River bridges, the travel procedures at border checkpoints, and other confidence-building measures. The talks on these issues will probably be held at the Erez Junction.

During the consultations, the participants also discussed the talks on early empowerment of the Palestinians which are scheduled to begin in Cairo on Monday [11 July] and elections in the territories.

The Israeli delegation to the negotiations on early empowerment will be headed by Major General Dani Rothschild. It is still not clear who will head the Palestinian delegation. The participants in today's consultations included Ministers Peres, Sarid, and Shahal as well as IDF [Israel Defense Forces] officers involved in the negotiations.

Rabin on Need To Confront Hamas, Radical Right Wing

TA1007170894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 10 Jul 94

[Text] The prime minister says that the Likud spokesmen are lying outrageously when they create a link between the PLO and terror. Almost all of today's terror is carried out by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Islamic Jihad. It is these enemies of peace who perpetrate terrorist acts in the areas under our military control, Yitzhaq Rabin said, adding that Arye Frankenthal, the soldier who was murdered by terrorists last week, was taken hostage with the intention of bargaining for the release of Hamas detainees whom Israel refuses to set free.

We will not give in to the enemies of peace, the prime minister stated, but will continue to exhaust the chances for peace with Jordan and Syria. We are determined to abide by our commitments, and will do so despite all Hamas provocations and protest activities by the radical right wing in Israel. It is necessary to fight terror on the one hand, and to confront the lawbreakers who call the commander of a command [Major General Ilan Biran, commander of the Central Command] a traitor and a murderer, on the other hand. These remarks were made by the prime minister at Labor's Central Committee session and reported by our party affairs correspondent Shmu'el Tal.

Our correspondent notes that Likud chairman, Binyamin Netanyahu, has denounced the criticism voiced by the settlers against IDF [Israel Defense Forces] officers. Netanyahu says that those who call IDF officers murderers or traitors remove themselves from the national camp.

Security Sources: 3 Hamas Squads Resume Operations

TA0907194494 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 9 Jul 94

[Text] Security sources expressed the assessment that three Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] squads have resumed operating over the past few days. It is believed that two of them are responsible for last week's terrorist attacks. This was reported at a meeting convened by the prime minister yesterday in order to discuss the situation in the territories.

Our army affairs correspondent Alon Ben-David reports that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] continued to reinforce its presence, mainly in the Hebron area.

Two explosive charges were discovered last night at a Hebron intersection. One charge exploded when a Border Police bomb disposal expert attempted to dismantle it. There were no casualties. The curfew on Hebron remains in force and searches are continuing after the murderers of the late Sarit Prigal from Qiryat Arba'.

Cabinet Discusses Issue of Qiryat Arba' Squatters

Ministers Urge Evacuation

TA1007113394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 10 Jul 94

[Text] The issue of the Jewish settlers squatting in unfinished apartments near Qiryat Arba' came up for discussion at this morning's cabinet meeting. On the line with the story from the Prime Minister's Office, where the meeting is still going on, is David Ze'ev:

[Begin recording] [Ze'ev] At around 11:30 this morning, members of the top security brass left the Prime Minister's Office, including deputy Army chief of staff Major General Amnon Shahaq, and Police Commissioner Asaf Hefetz. The security reviews to cabinet ministers took the major part of the first half or so of the cabinet meeting, after a week of terrorist attacks and confrontations between antigovernment protesters and security forces. The cabinet now discusses the state budget for next year.

A central theme on the security agenda: Qiryat Arba' residents taking over apartments in a previously unoccupied area. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is quoted by a source here at the Prime Minister's Office as saying that the extreme elements among the settlers cannot be considered only a small fringe but, in fact, comprise a larger percentage. Justice Minister David Liba'i says those who took over the apartments in Qiryat Arba' will have to leave, if not voluntarily—forcefully.

[Liba'i] This subject has been before the government today, and instructions would be given by the authorities to the military and to the police to take care of the situation. Anyhow, we will not agree to any violation of the law and I apply to those who invaded those buildings to evacuate the buildings as soon as possible, before the police and the Army would have to take care of the situation.

[Ze'ev] So you are calling on them to leave before they will have to be forcefully thrown out?

[Liba'i] Any violation of the law would be interrogated [as heard] by the authorities. What I suggest is that they would not wait until the authorities would interfere because the law should be abide [as heard].

[Ze'ev] Meretz' Absorption Minister Ya'ir Tzaban says the Qiryat Arba' affair presents the cabinet with its first test since the publication of the Shamgar commission report on the Hebron massacre which criticized the lack of law enforcement in the territories. Minister Tzaban says those who broke into the apartments must be evicted without any negotiations or any compromise. [end recording]

Security sources told the cabinet today that Palestinian police have begun seizing weapons from Hamas [Islamic

Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad groups, but are encountering difficulties and the campaign is only at its initial stages.

IDF Forces Dispatched

TA1007130894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 10 Jul 94

[Excerpt] At its weekly session, the cabinet refrained from reaching a decision on the evacuation of the squatters from Qiryat Arba'; however, the ministers received the impression from Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's concluding remarks that a compromise was not possible with regard to the enforcement of the law because the squatters would indeed be evicted. This was reported by our political correspondent Shlomo Raz.

The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has dispatched large forces to Qiryat Arba' and is apparently preparing to evacuate the settlers who squatted in the apartments in the new neighborhood. Our correspondent Gil Litman reports that the area has been declared a closed military zone and the settlers and media correspondents have been asked to leave. The correspondents were warned that they would be arrested if they did not leave immediately. The national association of Israeli journalists is now submitting an appeal to the High Court of Justice against the IDF's decision to declare the area a closed military zone, claiming that it obstructs the public's right to know and contravenes an earlier understanding with the commanders of the Central Command according to which correspondents would be permitted to report on developments unless they were in mortal danger.

The squatters in the Qiryat Arba' apartments said that they would fight against their evacuation at any cost. Settlers are being summoned to the area over the public address system in Qiryat Arba'. Dozens of yeshiva students and other residents have rushed to the scene and barricaded themselves in the apartments, noting, however, that they would refrain from any violent confrontation with IDF soldiers.

President 'Ezer Weizman said that the incident between the settlers and IDF commanders in Qiryat Arba' was very serious. He called on the government and on opposition leaders to calm tempers there in order to safeguard the democratic regime.

At today's cabinet session, it was also reported that the talks between Jordan and Israel would begin on 18 July, in a tent that would be set up at 'En 'Evrona north of Elat. Two days later, a summit meeting with the participation of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, and a high-ranking Jordanian official, apparently Prime Minister al-Majali will be held. [passage omitted]

Settler Leaders Agree to Evacuation

TA1007190194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1800 GMT 10 Jul 94

[Text] The settlers' leaders agreed that the squatters in houses in a Qiryat Arba' neighborhood will evacuate them by noon tomorrow. Our correspondent Esti Perez reports that this agreement was achieved in a meeting between Qiryat Arba' council leaders and President 'Ezer Weizman. It was also agreed that tomorrow afternoon the Qiryat Arba' leaders will meet with Construction and Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer to discuss how to legally resolve the issue of inhabiting these houses. Tzvi Qatzover, the head of the Qiryat Arba' local council, told our correspondent that he and his colleagues will try to convince the squatters that this is indeed the best arrangement.

Officer Says No Major Operation Expected in Lebanon

TA1007091394 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 10 Jul 94 p A1

[Report by military correspondent Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpt] Yitzhaq Rabin, the prime minister and defense minister, last Friday convened a special consultation to discuss the possibility of changing the nature of the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] activities in Lebanon. A senior military officer who participated in the meeting said that "there is no intention to conduct operations on the scale of Operation Accountability."

Rabin convened the top military brass in his Tel Aviv office to discuss recent incidents in the territories and south Lebanon. The session mainly centered around the two incidents in which two IDF soldiers, Lieutenant Yehuda Algrabli and Sergeant Avihay Danokh were killed in Hizballah attacks on the al-Rayhan outpost in south Lebanon.

The consultation was attended by Deputy Chief of Staff Amnon Shahaq—acting-chief of staff for the duration of Lieutenant General Ehud Baraq's visit to China—Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay, commander of the Northern Command, and other senior officers. The officers briefed Rabin about last week's events in south Lebanon. A military source defined the al-Rayhan outpost events as "bad luck." According to Brigadier General Rafi Noy, the Northern Command's chief of staff, the IDF assesses that Hizballah will continue its attacks against the IDF and the SLA [South Lebanese Army], mainly in south Lebanon, but perhaps along the northern border as well. [passage omitted]

U.S. Said To Reject Requests for Sensitive Components

TA1107084094 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 10 Jul 94 p A1

[Report by security affairs correspondent Sharon Shade]

[Text] The United States has rejected five official Israeli requests to purchase sensitive equipment which can be used for, among other things, producing nuclear weapons. This developed from a special report prepared by U.S. General Accounting Office [GAO], which examined the decisionmaking process relating to the exports of U.S. components to eight countries. These components can be used for civilian and military ends, as well as for developing a nuclear infrastructure. The report, which was obtained by HA'ARETZ, cites Commerce and Energy Department figures according to which U.S. companies were allowed to sell a variety of equipment and items to Israel, to the tune of $193.37 million between 1988-1992.

This equipment, which is also being sold to other countries, is under tight U.S. supervision for fear that it may be used for nonconventional military ends. The implementation of the policy on export permits is also being checked with regard to South Africa, Pakistan, Iran, Iraq, India, Brazil, and Argentina.

The equipment approved for Israel includes computers, computer components, electronic equipment, and equipment for pressure gauging.

The United States approved approximately 90 percent of Israel's requests, but refused to supply it several items and elements, such as special winding mechanisms, cables, equipment for nuclear reactors and nuclear power stations, corrosion-proof sensors, and enriched helium.

In a subcategory enumerating the export permits for components directly linked to nuclear armaments given to countries included in the report, Israel heads the list for the number of permits given in relations to the other countries. The GAO notes that the U.S. Administration considers Israel as having an independent nuclear program which is not subject to outside supervision, therefore deserving of special attention.

Settlers Act Against Government Policy

TA0907114994 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (LESHABAT supplement) in Hebrew 8 Jul 94 pp 8, 9, 26

[Article by Aviva Shabi: "The People Who Will Make Rabin Miserable"]

[Text] It is Tuesday [5 July], 0500 on the Trans-Samaria highway, at the Mashah intersection. Up on the ridge, a long column of Arab vehicles waits on the side of the road leading to Tel Aviv. A group of men, women, and teenagers stand on both sides of the intersection, some of them have been waiting since 0400. They are carrying placards saying: "One Does Not Sell Your Homeland," as well as pictures of 'Arafat, "the liar." Near 'Abdallah 'Amr's kiosk, a few sleepy soldiers are watching the spectacle from the roof of an army command car. Black smoke, the result of some burning tires, is billowing above the road sign giving the directions to Jerusalem and Tel Aviv.

Anyone headed for work in central Israel is allowed to drive past, not before they are handed a flyer in Arabic signed by their "Jewish neighbors." The flyer, accepted derisively by the passengers in the cars, states: "Dear driver, you are driving to celebrate the coronation of Yasir 'Arafat, and we are holding you up in order to give you pause to think and reconsider. You have chosen a professional murderer for president.... you have chosen a professional liar for president," and so forth. The leaflet concludes with this closing statement: "One more thing, 'Arafat has promised you that the Jewish settlements will disappear from the horizon. Please get this into your head: You will never see that day."

A blond youth in a large white T-shirt, loose sandals, and an Israeli flag slung over his shoulder is in charge of selecting the cars. The boy stands in the middle of the intersection, his figure bringing to mind the famous picture of [late Israeli author] Ya'aqov Shabtay which become the controversial symbol of the now defunct Tehiya Party. The youth now swoops on a blue Mercedes whose driver clearly seeks to commune with his leader in Jericho. Turn around, turn around, the boy orders the driver, drive to Tel Aviv. The driver obeys without protest.

Meanwhile, Nisan Slominsky's radio is emitting announcements about additional roadblocks: Qedumim intersection, Qarney Shomron intersection, Rimonim intersection—no less than 19 intersections have been blocked in the area. Slominsky is the operations officer for the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, and he is well aware that blocking an intersection is not exactly legal. In an interview he gave recently, he said that the battle against the government would be waged within a democratic framework. I never said, Slominsky explains, that we would operate within the framework of the law, but we are prepared to stand trial or go to prison.

Slominsky's bald pate is smudged with black soot, which has also soiled his well-laundered shirt, and he has a hard time understanding why the soot has stuck to him, of all people. This mild-mannered man was the first spokesman of Gush Emunim. Today he heads the Elqana local council and also serves as the chairman of the operational committee of the Settlers Council. He has a Bachelors Degree in mathematics and physics. He is also an ordained rabbi and looks more like a Histadrut labor federation hack than a road blocker. However, all is fair in love and war.

The plan to block intersections, Slominsky says, was prepared one week ago and discussed by the Settlers Council and at the meetings of the Joint Action Committee. On Sunday afternoon [3 July] Slominsky sent the orders down to the activists in the field, together with precise instructions. Each settlement was held responsible for organizing things in its vicinity while coordinating its activities with the operations officer. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] was informed in advance.

The soldiers and policemen do not disrupt the opposition activities on the Trans-Samaria highway. Only once or twice, when a huge traffic jam begins to clog the intersection, a police officer climbs out of his squad car and asks the demonstrators to vacate the road and stand on the side.

At exactly 0700, Slominsky instructs the demonstrators to pack up their gear. He sounds pleased. If, he says, demonstrators once used to stand on the side of the road, they now block traffic with their bodies, something that indicates a growing commitment to saving Eretz Yisra'el.

The road sign was completely blackened with soot by the time the demonstrators left. At 'Abdallah 'Amr's kiosk, a settler with an American accent and a group of young villagers were noisily arguing about democracy and peace. It will not do them any good, 'Abdallah says, they can stay here for a month or even two—they do not bother us. Who the hell are they?

After the signing of the Oslo Agreement, the Settlers Council decided to opt for organized and formalized activities in order to integrate all the steps taken against the government's policies. With that aim in mind, five committees were established: a political committee; an infrastructure committee; security committee; economic committee; and an operational committee headed by Slominsky.

The operational committee is responsible for formulating practical alternatives to foil the withdrawal process in Judaea, Samaria, the Gaza Strip, and the Golan Heights; making the public and the government realize that it was impossible to dry up the settlements; and generating public "momentum" against the government's policies. The operational committee formulated an entire operational plan, including organizing rallies and demonstrations in Israeli cities, setting up propaganda stands, organizing demonstrations on major roads, and disrupting tours by government ministers.

This framework constituted the basis for the activities of the Joint Action Committee, which organizes the right wing's struggle against the Rabin government. The Joint Action Committee is made up of representatives of the Settlers Council, members of right-wing parties, members of right-wing youth movements, and members of the Endeavor movement, which was established by the late Yehuda Hazani, one of Gush Emunim's most prominent leaders. This forum holds meetings, in which ideas are raised and joint decisions are reached. Generally speaking, however, this body mainly helps coordinate between the different right-wing organizations.

The hard core of real diehards, the spearhead of the struggle, is made up of several field activists, some of whom belong to the operational command. These were the people who this week led the Likud by its nose into violent street confrontations of a kind considered repugnant by princes such as Beni Begin and Dan Meridor. The most prominent of these activists are Uri Ari'el from Kfar Adumim, the secretary general of the Settlers Council; Aharon Domb from Qiryat Arba', the council's spokesman; Nisan Slominsky and Moshe Merhavya from the settlement of 'Ali, as well as Ya'aqov Novik and Ya'aqov Sternberg, both residents of Jerusalem, graduates of the "Merkaz Harav" yeshiva, and Hazani's followers.

The threat of preventive arrest hovers over all these people, and they alternate the location of their meetings. Sometimes they meet at the council's offices in Jerusalem, sometimes even on the lawn since they fear their meeting places could be bugged. All of them, with the exception of Uri Ari'el, who receives a salary as the council's secretary general, are volunteers.

Ari'el, a former Tirat Tzvi kibbutz member, one of the first settlers in Mishur Adumim, is considered someone who gets things done, a pragmatist, who shies away from publicity. Before replacing Ari'el Schneller, a member of Herut, as secretary general of the Settlers Council, Ari'el was secretary general of Amana, Gush Emunim's settlement movement, and in charge of putting up settlements. He took over when the Settlers Council replaced Gush Emunim—whose organizational framework disintegrated—as the settlers' leadership.

Because of his job, Ari'el is a member of all of the council's operational committees and in charge of organizing the meetings of the joint command and coordinating ties with political parties. He calls the supreme strategic command of the struggle simply the shadow government. The other aims are holding up and disrupting the political process, and in more popular terms, the aim is to make life rough for Rabin and to unbalance him.

Compared to those around him, Ari'el is seen as a moderating influence among the main group of activists. For instance, he opposed calling Rabin "traitor." "What Rabin is doing is a treacherous act," he says, "but we do not have to call him a traitor." On the other hand, in a different internal debate over the Independence Day march at the Netzarim settlement, Ari'el demanded holding a march in the Gaza Strip and not in the center of Samaria or in the Jerusalem area, as suggested by others.

Aharon Domb, called Domba by everybody, is the man behind the setting up of the 'Uvda information center, the settlers' answer to Betzelem. Domb's family and Rabbi Levinger's family were the first two families to live in Hebron's Avraham Avinu synagogue. Domb is rotund and an incessant activist, with close ties to the media. He often shows off his excellent relations with his Arab neighbors and the aid he gives to families of collaborators, who currently number 100 families, he says.

During 'Arafat's visit, Domb was red-eyed due to lack of sleep and unshaven. He was arrested Thursday [7 July] blocking the entry to Jerusalem and spent the night at the Russian Compound's lockup. Domb is the man who

Saturday night, at the outset of the march into the Old City, announced through a loudspeaker that the police had closed the entry to the Western Wall. He had received the announcement from a resident of the Jewish Quarter who stood at Jaffa Gate on his way to the wall.

Domb made the announcement (which later proved false) before checking it, and thereby helped to inflame passions. The procession, it will be recalled, ended with a pogrom against Arab property.

Domb: "That was a pogrom? They denigrate the word pogrom. It was a slight commotion, several groups burned a quarter of a vehicle and smashed 10 windows. Not that I am in favor of that, but torching a car and hurling stones is no story. No other group would have behaved in such a responsible way, although the arch-murderer was being brought to Jerusalem."

Domb is definitely in favor of using the slogan "Rabin, traitor." "Whoever becomes a friend of a murderer and sells parts of the homeland for a mess of lentils, is a traitor, and more precisely, carries out an act of treason." His red line is not human lives. "We have to disrupt the agenda of the prime minister and his band of ministers. Rabin and the members of his government and their wives should be worried about what is being done to them, just as many of our families and wives are worried about what this government is imposing on us."

Another member of this group, Moshe Merhavya, is in charge of the headquarters in the cities. There are such commands in 98 towns and they operate via telephone networks, which transmit announcements within minutes. Expanding the support circles in the towns, outside the settlements, has become one of the primary missions of the leaders of the struggle.

Ya'aqov Novik and Ya'aqov Sternberg of The United Command of the Zionist Camp, are in charge of recruiting people for demonstrations. Their activists drive around and are responsible for sticking announcements on street billboards and distributing fliers in synagogues, party branches, and other places.

The division of work is not totally organized and obvious, even to the organizers themselves, due to the large number of elements operating in the field. There are areas of activity under the responsibility of the Settlers Council, such as blocking roads. On the other hand, the tent city opposite the Prime Minister's Office is handled by the regional councils, which are responsible for bringing people and the logistics of living in the tent, including connecting water and electricity.

The protest actions against the 'Arafat visit were decided on in a series of meetings held by the joint command, starting in mid- June. There was a four-stage master plan built on bringing a very large group to the encampment two days prior to 'Arafat's visit. The first action, under the plan, was to block the entry to Jerusalem; the second—the main event, would include blocking the city center; third—a protest action opposite the Prime Minister's Office; fourth—if 'Arafat reaches Jericho, disruptive activities to diminish the festive occasion.

The problem at the operational level was giving notice at the shortest possible time. Worst of all: the visit was planned for the Sabbath, which made it very difficult for the organizers. The whole campaign was arranged within three days through advertisements in two newspapers and dozens of placards in the cities.

The timing of the main rally was decided on two days prior to the visit, although they did not have a permit so as not to be handicapped by a series of police restrictions. The rally was originally planned for the day of 'Arafat's arrival in Jericho, but for tactical reasons it had to be held on Saturday [2 July] night. Activists in the field pleaded to postpone the demonstration to Sunday so as to enable people to reach it from afar, but because they feared losing the momentum it was held on Saturday night. On the following day, Sunday, an angry protest action was planned for speaker's hill opposite the Prime Minister's Office. At 0700, according to Beni Katzover's eyewitness account, they saw the media representatives and thousands of policemen, who were sent to accompany cabinet ministers. "We said: We would be stupid to ruin this scene. We held a meeting and told our people that we are going to hold a procession to thank the Mahane Yehuda market vendors for their support. By the way, according to evaluations, they made up about 50 percent of the participants in the rally."

The quiet procession, according to Katzover's version, which left the tent city, ended up clashing with the police, who detained many of the protesters and tore up some of the placards. Katzover claims that "it was the police who turned the march into a day of heated protests."

Katzover has spent several nights in the tent city. He sleeps in a sleeping bag, a reminder of the illegal settlement at Sebastya [which later became the Qiryat Arba' settlement]. Two months ago, he became active once more following a six-month break. Some 10 months ago, after three terms, he resigned as chairman of the Shomron Regional Council. He chose not to stand for a fourth term.

Knowledgeable settlement sources claim that Katzover's influence has waned, especially since the colossal collapse of his Tehiya movement in the last elections, and had he competed, he would not have been elected. He was replaced by a National Religious Party candidate, Arye 'Ofri from Shavey Shomron, who was his deputy. Katzover has since been living off his pension as former council secretary general and is still a member of the council as "a representative of the people."

He has a dominant presence at meetings of the joint command, and he is mainly used for public relations purposes. He was chosen to guide the Jerusalem rally and gave interviews at the tent city.

The encampment, located at the junction opposite Giv'at Ram, was set up by residents of Ma'ale Levona following the murder of Dutchwoman Ruth van Dargus, who had converted to Judaism, and which in recent weeks has become a departure point for protest activities. Several hundred settlers are encamped there in rotation. This week, they were residents of Bet El and Mitzpe Yeriho. During the day, especially in the afternoon, they are visited by supporters and the curious, many of them ultra-Orthodox from Jerusalem. On Tuesday [5 July], for instance, a group of women from Qiryat Mal'akhi turned up to show solidarity.

Each morning a consignment of fresh pitas, donated by a Jerusalem bakery arrives at the encampment. Every two days, a truck with fruit and vegetables arrives from the Mahane Yehuda market. A local restaurant contributed 2,000 fish meals.

Katzover makes sure to express his surprise at "the wide-ranging public support." That might explain the settlers leaders' firm refusal to denounce the rioting in East Jerusalem: the elitist Zionist-religious movement has become a popular movement. It wants a populist image in order to motivate larger numbers of people to lie down on the road opposite the Prime Minister's Office. It does not matter who they are, the main thing is to hold up the process.

'Arafat Orders Recruitment of Released Murderers

TA1007101894 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 10 Jul 94 p A1

[Report by military correspondent Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpt] PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has directed Jibril al-Rujub, head of the Palestinian security service, to recruit 90 Palestinians—formerly convicted and serving life sentences—who were recently released from Israeli prisons. Among these prisoners are members of organizations opposed to the peace process. Many of them have been convicted of murdering or aiding in the murders of suspected collaborators.

Since their release these 90 prisoners have remained idle in Jericho. During 'Arafat's visit to the city they complained to him about their inactivity and asked to join the Palestinian security forces. 'Arafat surmised that this large group of people could cause unrest in the area and therefore ordered their recruitment.

Among the prisoners released approximately two weeks ago is Mahmud Abu-Muhammad, the head of the "Masked Lion" squad who was sentenced to 88 years imprisonment after being convicted of murdering 12 collaborators.

An Israeli security source expressed wonder about 'Arafat's decision. He recalled that the released prisoners were recruited to the Palestinian security service, which is supposed to occasionally cooperate with the Israeli Shin Bet. "It is strange that people convicted of murdering Palestinians will walk around with weapons in Jericho," the source said. [passage omitted]

Source Says Husayn Preparing Jordanians for Peace

TA1007175194 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 10 Jul 94

[Excerpt] King Husayn has begun to prepare Jordanian public opinion for peace with Israel, and this is why he chose to clearly inform the Jordanian parliament of his intention to meet with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. At the same time, the king will not decide on the date of the meeting before knowing the results of the negotiations which will begin in the 'Arava next week. Our Arab affairs correspondent Aharon Barne'a learned this today from a senior Jordanian source. [passage omitted]

Jerusalem Considers Representation Office in Belgrade

TA1007140394 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 10 Jul 94 p 1

[Report by Pazit Rabina]

[Text] Yo'el Shar, assistant director general in charge of the Foreign Ministry's Eastern Europe Department, and Ori Or, the chairman of the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, are leaving this week for talks in Belgrade. On the agenda: the possible opening of an Israeli legation in Belgrade.

Israel currently has no diplomatic representation in Yugoslavia. The former Yugoslavia was the last of the countries in the Communist bloc to reestablish diplomatic relations with Israel. Following the breakup of the former Yugoslavia and the imposition of international sanctions, diplomatic contacts were frozen.

It has been learned from sources in Belgrade that officials in the Balkan capital have great hopes with regard to the anticipated developments. As a result of the shared struggle against the Nazis, Israel enjoys a unique standing among the Serbs. People in Belgrade over the past two years had a difficult time understanding how Israel could recognize Croatia while withholding recognition from the former Yugoslavia.

The prevailing concern, officially unstated, is that as a result of the visit, Israel will be forced to establish diplomatic relations with Croatia. Up till today, despite recognizing its sovereignty, Israel has refrained from establishing diplomatic relations with Croatia to protest the blatantly anti-Semitic book written by President Franjo Tudjman.

Despite the international embargo, a large number of Israeli businessmen and companies operate in Belgrade. The Israelis deal mainly in the export of foods and drugs. One Israeli company has received the tender to organize parking lots in Belgrade.

Zambian President Arrives on Three-Day Visit

TA1107050294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 11 Jul 94

[Text] Zambian President Frederick Chiluba has arrived in Israel on a three-day official visit. Later today he will meet with Prime Minister Rabin. The two will sign a cooperation agreement. The Zambian president spoke to reporters on his arrival.

[Begin Chiluba recording] My government broke off relations with your government way back in the 1970's. The reasons perhaps existed, and maybe that was the best way to do it. I'm not sure, I wasn't in government then. But, it happened, and I think that both nations have learned from that disruption in relations. [end recording]

Fatah Activist Appointed Nabulus Mayor

TA1007180094 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 10 Jul 94

[Text] Attorney Ghassan al-Shak'ah of Nabulus is Nabulus mayor as of today. Al-Shak'ah was appointed by the Israeli Civil Administration, but the appointment received the PLO's agreement. Our correspondent in the territories Yoram Binur notes that al- Shak'ah is one of Fatah's key activists in Nabulus, and the aim of the appointment is to prepare Nabulus for self-administration.

Finance Minister To Propose Additional Tax Reforms

TA1007132594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 10 Jul 94

[Text] Finance Minister Avraham Shohat said at today's cabinet session that in the framework of this year's budget proposal, he intended to propose expanding tax reforms beyond the steps that have already passed in the Knesset.

Our economic affairs correspondent Menahem Friedman reports that at today's meeting, all the ministers came out in support of a small budget deficit and continued economic reforms. Bank of Israel Governor Ya'aqov Frenkel warned the ministers about the return of inflation, but stressed that further tax reform was important for economic growth.

Al-'Anani Previews Upcoming Talks With Israel

JN0807164494 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 8 Jul 94

[Text] Information Minister Dr. Jawad al-'Anani has underlined Jordan's eagerness to obtain its full sovereign rights to territory, water, and security during the Jordanian-Israeli negotiations slated to resume in the last half of July.

[Begin recording] [Correspondent Hani al-Badri] Sir, let us address the issues agreed upon in Washington during the meetings held by the trilateral Jordanian-U.S.-Israeli Committee, and the resumption of the Jordanian-Israeli negotiations, slated for 18 July.

[Al-'Anani] First, two meetings will be held. The first meeting will be held near the city of al-'Aqabah, north of the city of al-'Aqabah. It will be a bilateral meeting, bringing together the Jordanian and Israeli delegations. The talks will address the topics listed in the joint agenda agreement signed on 14 September 1993. Three agenda topics are to be discussed. The first topic pertains to territories and borders. By the term territories, I mean the Jordanian territories Israel occupied in the aftermath of the 1967 war. The issue of borders is related to the issue of territory. This is because once you regain your territories, you must demarcate your borders with Israel so that these borders may turn from cease-fire lines into permanent and recognized borders. This would realize and consummate Jordan's sovereignty. This would also drive home the message that Jordan is a country enjoying sovereignty on its territory and borders, and that it is not under the threat of Israeli expansion. The second topic to be discussed concerns security. With regard to the issue of security, I would like to say that security measures must be taken. This is because when you turn the cease-fire lines into permanent and recognized borders, you are required to achieve an agreement on the security measures that need to be enforced along these borders, and on the border crossings, if there are any. This is what normally takes place between any two world states. Such an agreement must also provide for measures to prevent the smuggling of banned material, for example. All these issues were not agreed upon in the past. The third and last topic to be addressed is the water issue, which is a vital and basic issue. [end recording]

Further on al-'Anani Remarks

JN0807193394 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 Jul 94

[Interview with Information Minister Dr. Jawad al-'Anani by correspondent Hani al-Badri on 8 July; place not given; from the "60 Minutes" program—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Badri] In addition to what you have already said about the Jordanian-Israeli negotiations, would you fill us in on what was agreed to in Washington about the Jordanian-U.S.-Israeli committee during the minister's visit there?

[Al-'Anani] It will be the fifth session for the three-way committee. It will also be convened somewhere in the Jordan valley at a site yet to be determined. This may take place in a location other than the one where the bilateral talks were held. Naturally, as well as Jordan and Israel, the Americans will attend. Discussions will focus on the projected development of the Jordan Valley. This is a huge venture that envisages, among other things, the digging of a canal to connect the Red Sea and the Dead Sea at an estimated cost of at least $3 billion. The project is not an exclusively water-related undertaking but is also tourist-oriented. We and the Israelis will work out guidlines to preserve the environment in the Jordan Valley. From a developmental perspective, the project has a vast potential for Jordan. Studies will also be commissioned so certain aspects of the project will be ready for implementation once agreement over borders and water is reached.

[Al-Badri] How do you think the negotiations due to take place in Wadi al-'Arabah will go in regard to the triangle of our sovereignty rights—borders, water, and security?

[Al-'Anani] The relocation of the talks to the region was not without good reason. Right from the beginning of the negotiating process in Washington in 1991, the recovery of occupied Jordanian territory, Jordan's right to water, refugee rights, and other topics on the agenda, have been uppermost on our minds. However, the Israelis have consistently taken a negative stand on the question of the occupied territory. Israel's hesitation and its failure to make a decision to hand over the occupied Arab territories are responsible for the stagnation in the negotiations on the other Arab tracks. Israel is thus in contradiction with UN Security Council Resolutions. The evacuation of occupied Arab territory in line with the land-for-peace formula is all-important. If Jordan succeeds in bringing this about, it will have achieved something and set a trend for the other Arab tracks.

[Al-Badri] How will the four-way committee go about its work as it addresses the refugees and evacuees issue?

[Al-'Anani] The Palestinian-Israeli agreement envisaged the formation of a quadrilateral committee made up of Jordan, Palestinians, Egypt, and Israel. The committee's mandate is to exclusively address the fate of the evacuees who were displaced after 1967. Those who were displaced in 1967 from the Palestinian territory to neighboring Arab states—to Jordan in particular—are the ones who qualify as evacuees. Those who moved from the West Bank to Jordan were mostly Jordanians. It was as if they changed locations within the borders of their country. But when the cease-fire agreement was reached and the PLO became the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative, the question arose: How are the evacuees' rights to be handled? Jordan was supposed to take care of their rights, in that Resolution 237 demanded that Israel take back the evacuees who left their homes. Israel, however, refused to be bound by that resolution. The situation was this: The evacuees belonged in one of two categories: Either holders of

Jordanian citizenship, and as such they should have returned to the West Bank, or those who were ejected from Gaza and held Egyptian laissez-passer or travel documents. It is then up to individual Jordanians who wish to return to the West Bank to decide for themselves, without this in any way prejudicing their rights or property.

[Al-Badri] Warren Christopher is expected to come to the Middle East soon. What do you think he is bringing along?

[Al-'Anani] The Palestinian-Israeli negotiations have now advanced to a new stage, and that is the transfer of functional power to the Palestinians over the entire Palestinian territory. I do not see how there can be a functional transfer without there being a simultaneous geographical transfer. That will be a somewhat complex issue, but let us wait and see how this will be sorted out. In any case, movement to a new stage in the negotiations, in itself, is progress. Likewise, the negotiations over the Israeli-Jordanian borders are a step forward. Christopher wants to seal the progress made so far. I think the Syrian-Israeli track will also be a priority for Mr. Christopher. His visit here will come hard on the heels of his majesty's successful trip to the Untied States. I think he will attend the opening session of the three-way talks grouping Jordan, Israel, and the United States.

[Al-Badri] Thank you, Dr. Jawad al-'Anani.

[Al-'Anani] Thank you.

Cabinet Approves Team to Bilateral Peace Talks

JN0907120294 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 9 Jul 94

[Text] During a session it held today under Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, the Council of Ministers approved the formation of the Jordanian delegation to the meetings of the bilateral peace talks, led by Jordanian Ambassador in Washington Dr. Fayiz al-Tarawinah. The delegation includes working groups for water, development, energy, security, and borders; advisers from the Armed Forces and other civil advisers; and a Jordanian support team.

King Views Possible Negotiations With Israel

NC0907152194 Paris AFP in English 1400 GMT 9 Jul 94

[Text] Beirut, July 9 (AFP)—King Husayn of Jordan said Saturday [9 July] it was "time for Jordan to look after its own interests" as it prepared for bilateral negotiations with Israel, independent from Syria and Lebanon.

In an interview with Lebanese newspaper AL-SAFIR, King Husayn said "waiting for all (Arab) parties to resolve their problems would mean we were not fulfilling our duties to our people."

Jordan, which is to begin negotiations with Israel on July 18, has come under fire from Syria and Lebanon which oppose separate peace agreements between Arab countries and Israel.

Syria has said no treaties should be signed until all tracks of the Arab-Israeli peace process have been resolved.

But King Husayn said his country had "hidden nothing" from Syrian leaders, who in turn "did not inform us of the stage they had reached" in negotiations with Israel.

"Coordination has to be a two-way thing," he said, adding that relations with Damascus were "normal."

"Jordan has never hesitated to support its Arab brothers. We fulfilled our engagements in 1967 (Middle East war) and we then supported the Palestinians until they decided to go their own way," he said, referring to the Israeli-PLO self-rule accord signed on May 4 in Cairo.

Talks between Israel and Jordan are to take place in the Wadi 'Arabah region, 17 kilometres (10 miles) north of the Red Sea port of Aqaba.

The two countries signed a detailed agenda on June 7 in Washington agreeing to set up a commission to try to resolve a long-standing dispute over their common border.

US Secretary of State Warren Christopher will also attend a joint Jordanian-Israeli-US commission on July 22 to discuss development projects for the Jordan Valley, Jordanian officials said Saturday.

Negotiations between Israel and its Syrian and Lebanese neighbours were indefinitely suspended after the Hebron mosque massacre in February.

King Remarks on Peace Talks, Meeting Rabin

JN0907192194 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Jul 94

[Remarks by King Husayn at a meeting with the members of the House of Representatives at the Royal Hashemite Court in Amman on 9 July—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. At the outset of this meeting, I warmly welcome the brother members of parliament and government in this house of the Jordanians. I pray to God that our meetings will always be repeated along the path of success, sincere service, and dedication to this part of the greater homeland, to this Jordan, which accommodates everybody from all origins. We are all one family and one march, God willing.

I have recently received some remarks by the brother members of parliament. I appreciate their concern, which I reciprocate with a similar concern about continued contacts between us. They have mentioned—and reminded us—that we head the three branches of government. I have never forgotten this and I take pride in all of you. I hope that we will always have the opportunity to work together and help each other in the service of the homeland and all its sons.

I will see to it personally that my meetings with the brother deputies of the people are repeated here in this house of yours. I will take each opportunity so we can continue our meetings and our dialogue to reach what is better all the time in terms of solutions to problems, if they exist. I will always take pride in this bond between myself and the sons of this one big family, to which we belong.

From the remarks of the deputies, it seemed to me that in this atmosphere—in which there are many expectations and much psychological suffering on the part of all of us—there are signals that cooperation between the legislative branch and the executive branch is not as it should be. I have tried to analyze the reasons for such a view. Perhaps, I did not succeed in finding convincing answers.

I speak to all of you, as a brother, and express my hope that you will cooperate and stick together for the good of this country at one of the most critical junctures in our life and at a time that requires from all of us rising above minor issues, tolerating each other, and working so each one of us will live with a clear conscience all the time.

At the beginning of the term of this honorable house, and the cabinet reshuffle, then the trend was—and this was in response to the wishes of the deputies—to have the ministerial or cabinet team from outside the House of Representatives, because there is no reason for it to be from the House, just as there is no reason for it to be entirely from outside the House. Anyway, we found that we should make a fresh start. Thus, the government was formed from elements of the sons of this homeland from outside the House of Representatives. This measure, if I may say it, did not pass easily, because we found that it received criticism during the past stages. After all, the government comprises a group of brothers of the sons of this homeland who are assigned duties and responsibilities. A change or reshuffle is unavoidable from time to time. This is life.

At an earlier time, the brother deputies initiated contacts to form blocs at the House under different headings. When it was time for the reshuffle, and at a circumstance like the one we are passing through, we felt it was probably appropriate to have within the ranks of the government representatives of these blocs. This was not on the basis of representation, but on the basis of qualifications and competence, which we are always eager to have in the government so we can move from one stage to another and bolster the ties that should be among all of us, particularly in the legislative and executive branches of government.

We found also that this method seems to be criticized, and probably is still being criticized. Definitely, I, personally, and the government respond to the desires of the deputies and the whole people. Perhaps I can recall with you what I said to you at the beginning of our return to our democratic life when I said that the presence of too many parties obstructs activity, and that brothers should meet and organize their ranks in order to move from one situation to another, and so that those who can cooperate do so in order to have influential blocs that have known policies and responsible programs. This enables us to cooperate in a better way than if we are several blocs but have little weight and influence.

I would like to emphasize that the intention of the latest reshuffle was not to obstruct the natural activities and efforts that made up these blocs at the House of Representatives. On the contrary, it was a recognition of their presence and an attempt to draw some of their figures in order to realize more communication and understanding of this delicate situation.

Before this meeting, I tried to think about what can be raised by some dear brothers, or what they think about at this stage. At this point, allow me as a brother of all of you, to concentrate on some constants, starting with the national unity in this country. This unity should be maintained with the awareness and sincerity of all of you.

This is not only a hope that has no justification. Since the beginning, we have shared the loaf of bread on this good land. We lived as one family and brothers on this Arab land.

If we recall the past and the beginning of the march, we recall that the arrival of the Hashemites in this land was the onset of cohesion and integration to rescue it and rescue its Arab character—rescue it from the designs that had been woven against it.

Whatever march this country has faced was an inescapable fate. Every time our Arab nation has sustained a tragedy, it was our march that was hardest hit. We must protect and nurture our march. When we talk about the closure of ranks, solidarity, and national unity, we are not talking about a fleeting thing. This was handed down to us from the first generation that fought the battle on behalf of Arab unity and freedom and the good of the Arabs. We have put the interests of others—our brothers and kinsmen—before ours throughout all the phases of our protracted struggle. However, we may be overtaken by events and all of us meet with failure if we do not stick to our national unity, at this time more than at any time in the past. I do not think that you or the children of this homeland are about to give up. If we do, God forbid, the result will be a catastrophe, not only nationally but also across the Arab world as well. I have said this in the past and I will continue to repeat it as long as I live. Whoever tries to hurt our national unity is my enemy until doomsday. You may wonder what is it that drives me to repeat this theme at this time in particular and at such a session. I will be honest with you: At this point in time we are coming under unprecedented pressure. We are suffering a great deal and we are taking a course that, on the one hand, promises to get us to our goals and, on the other, involves burdensome responsibility.

I have referred to the beginnings; I also pointed to the motive of those who came before us when they stood on this land to defend Arab rights and the right of the human being to this land.

Under all the circumstances that we have experienced and during all the battles that were imposed on this nation, this country has played a distinguished role in bearing its own burden and bearing the consequences.

Even though Jordan has not been responsible for everything that has happened, it has always considered the nation to be its nation and the greater homeland its homeland and any threat to any part of this greater homeland a threat to it.

On its good soil, the people of Jordan and others who emigrated to Jordan got together and constructed the country. At this age and regarding all your ambitions and hopes, as well as my own ambitions and hopes, the basis of the attainment of our goals is a degree of distinguished awareness, cohesion, and solidarity. The alternative to this, God forbid, will be more pressure and then an explosion and collapse. This will enable the covetous ones to reach the depth of the Arab homeland. I would not be exaggerating if I said that I have suspicions that there are people who are seeking, intentionally or not, to plant the seeds of sedition in this country between its sons. Then, instead of concentrating on Palestine—the land, cause, people and their rights on their national soil—there might appear in the arena what could encourage concentrating on their situation and threaten Palestine, the people, cause, right, and land, and threaten Jordan with death and extinction.

Maybe many parties would think that this country, which has maintained its steadfastness through its people and the awareness of this people, has had many achievements with the limited resources at its disposal and that it is time for it to end, in terms of its weight, effect, and even existence.

We believe that this country has a huge potential, in terms of the hopes and feelings of its sons, and their genuine belonging. This makes it incumbent on everybody to stick together and live up to their responsibilities in this circumstance, so that this country will remain—through democracy, shura, respect for human rights, and cooperation—an example for others, and so that it can continue to perform its duty and bear its message and remain a source of hope for the people in this region. This way, it will also remain a hymn of steadfastness, firmness, pride, determination, resolve, and awareness in our greater Arab homeland.

Our conditions—and let me be frank with you—impose on us much work, much effort, and much awareness. The circle is narrowing around us, and pressures are continuous. Our suffering, on the one hand, as all the circumstances around us... [pauses] we do not practice oneupmanship with anyone, and no one can practice oneupmanship with the Palestinian Arab people in what they endured, sacrificed, and offered.

The Palestinian people chose their path through their leadership, which is recognized by all Arabs as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian Arab people. They walked on this path. On the other hand, this has taken place after sisterly Egypt—the biggest sisterly Arab country—chose to go on this path; Egypt, which assumed the leadership in 1967. One of the signs of this leadership in this country was the military command that shouldered the responsibilities and took the reins of this country, its army, and its Armed Forces.

The world was shaken in the near past by a huge earthquake that altered balances and calculations. The region was rocked by very dangerous events, the results of which we are still suffering.

Peace, as an objective, was presented, and discussion was made on this subject here in the Jordanian arena. There has been an Arab consensus to move in search for this peace within the framework of a just and honorable peace that the next generations will accept and protect. There is no need to recall the details because all of you are in the picture.

On the Arab level, we began this process from the same point together—in Madrid, Moscow, and Washington. As you know, we were surprised by the Palestinian-Israeli agreement and the meeting in Washington. After contemplation of what happened, the reaction has been, and is still, to urge the Palestinian Arab people to close ranks on their national soil, and to think carefully and decide whatever they want. We will not practice oneupmanship with them, but we support them to the best of our capabilities.

Immediately after the Washington meeting, we signed the agenda containing issues related to Jordan and Israel. Had issues taken their natural course, the difficult phase of negotiating on this agenda could have started at that time. In a later phase, a tripartite group was formed, including the United States, in addition to Jordan and Israel. Shortly after that, it was decided, as a result of the readiness we sensed for discussing issues on the agenda, it was decided to transfer the discussion and the negotiating process to this region, where we are trying to work to regain our occupied territory and to emphasize our sovereignty over it, where we have the issue of water and our national right to it, and where we find all other issues on the agenda. Within days, the negotiating process will begin in order to deal with these problems.

As for coordination, nobody has ever been more eager than us to have Jordanian-Palestinian and Arab coordination in the full sense of the word. Nobody appreciated the fact more than us that lack of coordination implied a threat to all, that it gave us less opportunities to reach what was possible to reach through coordination. We looked for coordination that meant that each party concerned with this coordination process should listen and give its opinion. We did not want coordination to be trusteeship. We never expected this for the Palestinian brothers here in Jordan. Possibly they would not have agreed that this coordination should mean that they should follow us in all our ideas and stands. This applies to other brothers.

Again, we mention Egypt. In this talk, I do not hold the Egyptian leadership responsible for what happened. I believe that the explanation is that the Egyptian brothers felt that it was their duty to take care of Egypt first, and when efforts did not succeed in establishing a suitable condition in the Arab world capable of facing the challenges, they chose their own course and went on.

In any case, they took that road, the road that Palestine took through its sole legitimate representative when it set off simultaneously with us and then broke off and decided to proceed on its own to the end. Once again, let me say that we are not imposing a burden beyond the capacity of our brothers. We are not engaged in oneupmanship with the Palestinian brothers. Their long suffering and continual sacrifices, and ours, are our and their fate.

As for my recent visits and contacts: My visit to the United States was good. We held honest and straight talks. The goals were as follows: Naturally, to discuss the peace process; this country's requirements; the foreign debt burden; and the exploration of a formula to lift or cancel the debts. We also discussed the military needs for this Arab army, which has always been a shield and fence for this homeland. The Army should receive sufficient care and attention so it may continue to play its role as fully as it can, as the shield for the homeland the hope of its good citizens. This requires new weapons and modern equipment. The old weapons cannot compare with the weapons in the possession of our neighbors. It is a state of affairs that has to be rectified. We are also discussing the economic conditions. We are discussing this with many countries around the world. We look forward to economic conditions different from what they are now so that we may carry out our duty toward ourselves in the present and the future.

The highest officials in the United States now say that our our relations have been restored, or are on the way to being restored, to their natural condition. The U.S. Administration has a sure desire to support this country in the material and military fields. However, the effects of the Gulf crisis continue to dominate the thought of many people in the U.S. legislative authority. The United States is prepared to ask the legislative authority to cancel all the debts and lift restrictions on Jordanian armaments within the framework of the Jordanian plan, which we are going to crystallize in its final form and which aims to raise the efficiency of the Jordanian Armed Forces, not by reducing them but by improving their performance in the best way possible. However, this is linked to Jordan's continuing in the peace process. What is more, if a meeting is held between Husayn and the Israeli prime minister—and as soon as this is done—the United States and its administration can take the steps that I have just mentioned.

As you know, we are proceeding in the peace process out of a conviction and a sense of duty, and we shall continue. Negotiations are under way and meetings are taking place at the level of officials. And they will continue.

Even if the meeting between me and the Israeli prime minister is the price for changing the picture in the interest of this country, I will never hesitate to do that at all. I consider this a duty and an honor, because by this I will be doing a service to my homeland, which is threatened from every direction.

Then, the issue depends on its timing, when there is a justification for such a meeting, and it will take place, God willing. I am telling you this in order that you might share with me my feelings about these critical and difficult circumstances, and my suffering and the suffering of all of us. There is no room for one-upmanship by anybody. The issue is one of the present, the future, and destiny. We shall never bow except to God, with God's assistance.

The peace we are seeking is one that restores rights to their owners, and not peace at any price. We are at the doors of a new stage. Israel has a challenge to prove its good faith and its compliance with right and justice. The challenge is not to us. Some people say a border strip and a farm; this border strip is larger than Gaza and any inch of this Jordanian territory is dear to all of us, and we will do the impossible to restore sovereignty over our territory and our right to our waters. We are experiencing thirst and a need for water. We made from water every living thing. [Koranic verse]

We need to build and progress. We need a fence for this homeland and for the hopes of its sons. This part of the greater homeland has always been for its nation.

If we want to talk about taking different stands, we say that we took a different stand only once, when we stood vis-a-vis the Gulf crisis. Each had his own way. We lived and gave advice and bore the results in order to avoid the disaster, which had a direct bearing on events we are still living with. Frankly, it seems to me that conditions are ready for the brothers around us to reach their aims shortly. There is a large difference between beginning a serious phase of negotiations to restore our rights and the mechanism of organizing our conditions and to deal with all that is listed on the agenda, on the one hand, and peace on the other. Peace will crown all of this, if achieved.

Frankly speaking my brothers, must this country leave aside things that are important for it and for its children and wait until all other problems are solved for others? Let us be realistic. We are not protected by a superpower or a group of states, or an international alliance or organization. Even on the Arab level, our relations, which were regrettably affected by the Gulf crisis, are still the same and our suffering is great. This country is a shield that protects the Arab nation against danger. This country must continue to be a shield for Arab aspirations and hopes. It requires all of us to rise to the required level to shoulder this burden together. God willing, we will proceed toward our aims and goals and reach them, with God's support.

As for the result, nobody should try to outdo us, on the Arab level or any level. In fact, and on the Jordanian arena, we must pay attention. The issuing of accusations and the hissing of snakes should stop everywhere.

This country has a good image, which is the result of your work, effort, and sacrifice, and I hope that this image will not be tarnished in any way. God willing, other circumstances might come when this image will improve. Otherwise, the causes for our own existence... [pauses] our education and organizing it must give our youths the means to play their role and take a qualitative step toward a good future, god willing. There is the water problem, the economic issue, and the psychological stability and the conditions which we have lived for a long time. I do not know what the future will bring. We stood firm, made sacrifices, and progress. All our aims are worthy of our efforts. If the framework is that of peace, then it must be a just, honorable peace that generations accept after us; peace that will restore for us all of our rights. It is not peace at any price.

Jerusalem is above all other consideration. It is in our hearts and minds. Concerning our Islamic holy places in Jerusalem, sovereignty must be for the Islamic nation. We call for dialogue among religions and for respect for the rights of all worshipers of God in Jerusalem. It must be completely out of the political formula; the holy places for those who believe in God, the children of our Prophet Abraham, may God's peace and blessings be upon him.

As for our brothers in the occupied territories and their leadership, we will support them to the best of our ability on a case by case basis. We want to know what they want in order to be able to meet their demands properly and at the proper time.

Again, the talk about confederation, federation, and the united kingdom, all this is senseless talk. What is going to be decided will be decided by the free people who are able to make decisions and not what this or that person proposes now or at any time.

We must safeguard the existing close and genuine relationship here in the Jordanian arena—all of us from every descent and origin. It is a sacred unity. When circumstances arise under which anyone would like to go his own way, this is up to him. But we will not allow the national unity to be harmed in any degree. We will continue on the road of supporting the kinsmen and brothers in Palestine to the best of our abilities. It is high time we paid attention to ourselves and our responsibility toward the present and future and the right of this country. We should fear God as far as the rights of this country are concerned and offer the maximum we can so that the banner may remain high, God willing, and the future meets our expectations. Life and death are in the hands of God the almighty. We will never be intimidated by anything. All we seek is God's satisfaction and a clear conscience.

Once more let me say that no one can engage in oneupmanship with us. In this regard let my make this appeal to each and every brother and sister: Let us all of us fear God insofar as this homeland and march are concerned. Help ye one another in righteousness and piety, but help ye not one another in sin and rancor. [Koranic verse]

I address this appeal to all without exception. I would like to emphasize this point more than at any time in the past. I am confident of the eventual triumph of right and the inevitability of our objectives being attained, God willing. Our success comes from God, and God's peace and mercy be upon you.

King Husayn 'Courageous' Speech Praised

JN1007112994 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 10 Jul 94 pp 1, 18

[Editorial: "A Sincere and Courageous Speech"]

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn sincerely, frankly, and confidently addressed the House of Representatives members yesterday and, through them, the sons of this one big family, calling for cohesion and closing ranks in the face of challenges, reiterating the deeply-rooted national constants, outlining the crucial nature of this stage and its difficulties, and explaining to all the realities which inevitably have be addressed.

Al-Husayn was magnificent when he called on all the sons of this homeland from all origins to rise above petty matters in order to tackle the requirements of this difficult Arab era, and to protect this beloved homeland and safeguard it as the front line that defends the Arabs.

When his majesty reiterates that all those who harm national unity are al-Husayn's enemies until doomsday, this is because we are passing through a crucial stage, during which we face pressure that is unprecedented throughout the history of our country. As a result of this, we greatly suffer while we tread a course that alternates between hope and a sense of momentous historical responsibility.

The basis that guides Jordan's action is abidance by the national constants and endeavors to attain the objectives. This calls for awareness, cohesion, and cooperation as the alternative will be more pressure on Jordan that will lead to a collapse that will enable the covetous to reach deep within the big Arab homeland.

With a frankness, somewhat tinged with bitterness, al-Husayn says that the circle is closing around us, that the pressure against us continues. He said that we do not practice oneupmanship with anyone, and no one should practice oneupmanship with us, neither should anyone practice oneupmanship with the Palestinian people who suffered much, offered much, then chose their definitive course, fully supported and backed by us.

Al-Husayn has drawn a very complex picture of what our relations have been with the United States since the Gulf war. His majesty said the image they still have of our country is still governed by the effects of this painful war, and that the only way to overcome this and to achieve most of our aspirations here is to pursue the peace process and hold meetings with the Israeli side at the highest level.

While speaking about all this, al-Husayn was drawing a not so bright picture. But, he is a leader who leads his people forward, ready to offer sacrifices as do men of honor who have devoted their lives to serve their nation, and with the loyalty of the leader who is committed to duty, and ready to carry it out with honor and courage so long as the future of the homeland and the interest of the people are at stake.

We, in Jordan, face a new juncture during which we will seek to regain our rights to the land and to water. We will not be the last to negotiate, particularly under the present regrettable Arab circumstances and amid a state of affairs where we do not enjoy the protection of a big power and where we face ambiguity about the concepts governing this stage, particularly on the issue of Arab coordination.

Daily Lauds King's Address, Notes Plans To Meet Rabin

JN1007122194 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 10 Jul 94 pp 1, 21

[Editorial: "Husayn Clarifies Facts to Government and Deputies"]

[Text] During his meeting with the members of the Cabinet and House of Representatives yesterday, the king clarified a host of facts on the difficult and critical circumstances through which Jordan in particular and the Arab region in general are passing.

Jordan, as His Majesty King Husayn said, is threatened from every direction and pressures are being put on it from several parties and forces. This requires the pooling of efforts and cooperation between the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government on the one hand, and the sons of the one family regardless of their origin on the other.

As His Majesty King Husayn said, national unity should be safeguarded through awareness, sincerity, and cooperation among all in this democratic atmosphere which facilitates cooperation, dialogue, and enlightened understanding on the basis of adherence to the constants of the Jordanian position and the Arab position.

The Hashemites have right from the beginning devoted themselves to the causes of the nation and homeland. Their advent to this good earth signalled the need for cohesion to rescue every part of the land of Arabism and Arab and Islamic holy places from hostile ambitions.

Accordingly, no party or force in or outside Jordan has the right to outbid the Jordanian position which is committed to the constants of the Arab position and which is keen on consultation and coordination between the Palestinian and Arab brothers who are directly concerned with the peace process.

As King Husayn has said, none cared more than Jordan for full coordination or realized more the dangers of the absence of coordination or its negative impact on all. The coordination in which Jordan believes is that which is far removed from subservience.

Since Jordan has been careful to bring the process of a just and comprehensive peace, and not peace at any price, to a successful conclusion, it will continue negotiations with awareness, vigilance, and caution in order to restore our rights to land and water and impose our inalienable national sovereignty on them.

Nothing is more expressive of King Husayn's concern for our country, our homeland, and our nation's interests than his assertion that he is ready to meet with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin if that serves the interests of our country, leads to the aspired peace that is acceptable to future generations, averts the dangers threatening Jordan, restores all our national rights, and regains sovereignty over holy Jerusalem and its Islamic holy places.

The current critical stage makes it incumbent on all the sons of our one family to stick together and rise to the level of responsibility. It also dictates that we exert greater effort to bring the battle of construction, development, and promotion of the economic, social, and living standards of all to a successful conclusion.

Hence, it should be noted that His Majesty King Husayn's recent visit to the United States was crowned with great success on the level of rectifying bilateral relations and convincing the U.S. Administration to ease Jordan's debts and supply it with the advance weapons needed by our valiant army. Hence, signals are looming on the horizon that Jordan is in excellent shape, its future is bright, and its role in the region will continue to be effective, influential, and honorable, thanks to King Husayn's splendid leadership, wisdom, experience, and extreme ability to face crises and overcome them.

Tension Rises Along Israeli Border, Security Zone

Israel Shells Central Sector

NC0907075494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0720 GMT 9 Jul 94

[Text] Beirut, 9 Jul (MENA)—Tension is prevailing in south Lebanon areas following the continued Israeli attacks on towns and villages adjacent to the occupied security strip and Israeli officials' threats to escalate the military situation.

Security reports received from the south say that the Israeli occupation forces' heavy artillery shelled large areas in the central sector this morning, especially the Iqlim al-Tuffah area. The reports add that tanks took part in this shelling, which targeted areas in the western al-Biqa' and that a number of shells fell on Tallat al-Sultan, the Markaba area, the hills and outskirts of Qartaba, Kawkaba, Mimis, and 'Ayn Qaniyah.

Israeli warplanes flew reconnaissance sorties over south Lebanon last night, staged mock raids, and dropped flares.

Israeli Mock Air Raids in South

NC1007151894 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1300 GMT 10 Jul 94

[Text] The National News Agency correspondent in Tibnin has reported that a formation of Israeli warplanes conducted mock raids over Majdal Silm, Haris, Haddathah, and Wadi al-Saluqi villages at 1330 this afternoon. They were confronted by the resistance forces' ground defenses. Sources of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon have confirmed the mock raids.

Israeli Reinforcements in South

NC1007054694 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 10 Jul 94

[Text] The Zionist enemy continues to mobilize troops and vehicles in the occupied border zone opposite the liberated areas. Security sources report that the Israeli forces have brought in additional armored vehicles and tanks to the Bra'shit, Haddathah, Rshaf, and al-Qantarah positions. They also reinforced the Bayt Yahun crossing point with more troops.

Israeli Planes Raid Hizballah Base in al-Biqa'

Planes Return Safely

TA1107101994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 11 Jul 94

[Text] Israeli Air Force jets raided terrorist targets in the southern al-Biqa' Valley. The targets were terrorist sites used by Hizballah for its activities. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman announced that all our planes returned safely.

One 'Fighter' Wounded

NC1107112894 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 11 Jul 94

[Text] Israel has escalated the military situation in the south and western al-Biqa' ahead of the arrival of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in the region on a new tour.

In light of this escalation, a security source has reported that Israeli warplanes today carried out a series of raids in Western al-Biqa' lightly wounding a resistance fighter. The source said that shortly after 1000, four Israeli warplanes raided positions in Suhmur, Mashgharah, and 'Ayn al-Tinah using air-to-ground missiles. The raid lasted around 30 minutes. The target was an empty two-story house in 'Ayn al-Tinah. This raid is the 10th carried out by Israeli warplanes since 2 June, when a raid on 'Ayn Kawkab, east of Ba'labakk, killed 32 martyrs and wounded many people.

A report from the south says Israeli forces reinforced their positions on Tall Zaghlah, (Shuwayyah), and al-Bayyadah hill at dawn today with half-track and armored vehicles. It also closed off the al-Hamra' bridge crossing to cars travelling in both directions. It only allowed pedestrians through.

Security information reported that Israeli gunboats have, since dawn today, carried out large-scale search operations along the coast from Tyre to the international border to find two Palestinian resistance fighters killed last night in an exchange of fire with an enemy patrol. The same information said the two fighters were trying to enter the occupied territories using a rubber dinghy.

Al-Hariri Reportedly Meets With Syria's Khaddam

NC1007083194 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0800 GMT 10 Jul 94

[Text] According to journalistic sources, Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri visited the Syrian summer resort of Bludan last night, where he met Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam. They discussed developments in the peace process on the eve of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's Middle East tour. They also reviewed the situation in south Lebanon in view of persistent speculation that Israel is planning a military operation against the area with the aim of disrupting the negotiations.

Radio Reports King Husayn Prepared To Meet Rabin

JN1007052394 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 10 Jul

[Text] Amman—The Jordanian king, Husayn, has said he is prepared to meet with Israeli Prime Minister Rabin.

In a meeting he had yesterday with members of the Jordanian Council of Ministers and House of Representatives, King Husayn said: If my meeting with Yitzhaq Rabin will change the picture in Jordan's favor, then I will never hesitate to meet with him at all.

He added: I will consider this a national duty and a service to Jordan.

Official: Christopher Tour Success Depends on Israel

PM1107090094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 8 Jul 94 p 5

[Report by Salwa al-Ustuwani: "Damascus: Success of Christopher's Tour Depends on Persuading Israelis To Be Flexible"]

[Text] Damascus—Before U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's arrival in the region on 17 July in a new endeavor to restore balance to the peace process and encourage the two parties to resume the peace negotiations, Syria has said that Christopher will encounter no problem with the Syrians, who have always and at all talks shown positions responsive to the peace process.

Syria has offered numerous opportunities to ensure the continuity of the negotiation process through its recent proposals which Christopher conveyed to Israel, which is evading responsibility and the realities.

A Syrian official told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Christopher's upcoming tour and endeavors are governed by his ability to compel and persuade Israel to give up its provocative and intransigent positions and display sufficient flexibility vis-a-vis the full withdrawal issue—the principal pillar for peace.

The official added that, if Christopher succeeds in persuading Rabin's government to commit to the withdrawal principle, it means that the door will be wide open to the possibilities of a just and comprehensive peace, and the region will move to a very important phase by eliminating the specter of war and explosion.

However, the official accused Yitzhaq Rabin's government of paying no attention to U.S. efforts to advance the peace process. The official said it is continuing to create an atmosphere of tension and escalation with a view to disturbing these efforts and destroying the last opportunity for the peace process.

The official added that the frequent attacks on southern Lebanon point to the Israeli inclination to torpedo all the efforts and contacts being made to achieve progress.

The official pointed out that Israel has not so far offered anything to convince Syria or Lebanon that it is serious in its move toward peace. Nor has it changed anything in its policy based on expansion and settlement. The rulers of Tel Aviv continue to believe that the language of threats still dominates the region. Israel does not realize that all equations in the world have changed and that it can no longer impose its conditions on mighty Syria.

The official said: "We have announced that we are in no rush. As long as there is an occupation, there is a Syrian position known for its national and pan-Arab constants. Otherwise, the road is closed to peace and will remain closed until Israel makes a positive move and looks for positive elements to advance this process."

The official added that the rulers of Israel are offering impossible conditions: sometimes by linking the talks to the venue and other times to the level of the delegations. And sometimes by insisting on secret negotiation and trying to belittle the importance of the peace process.

Editorials View Christopher's Upcoming Tour

Israeli 'Escalation' in Lebanon Linked

JN0907071594 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 9 Jul 94

[From the press review]

[Text] A TISHRIN editorial today discusses the aggressive Israeli escalation in southern Lebanon, linking the Israeli actions in southern Lebanon to the U.S. peace efforts. The paper notes the violent campaign launched by Israeli officials against Syria under the pretext that Syria will not curb the activities of the national resistance in southern Lebanon.

TISHRIN says: Syria's stand has always been that occupation produces resistance and that complete Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon in accordance with Security Council Resolution 425 will restore security and stability to the border area.

TISHRIN notes that Israel is preparing for a large-scale military operation in southern Lebanon within the framework of its strategy aimed at undermining the efforts to achieve a just peace that requires the removal of occupation. It is also aimed at exerting pressure on Syria and Lebanon. Israeli leaders believe that the united Syrian-Lebanese stand threatens their separate deals and incomplete, partial settlements.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: This Israeli escalation, which is linked with the visit [to the region] by U.S. Secretary of State Christopher, has nothing to do with national resistance, which has been continuing since the beginning of occupation. However, what is new is that

Israel want to contain Christopher's visit before it even starts, abort its results, maintain the current situation, and renew the pressure on Lebanon, and through it—on Syria, to peddle its separate deals, torpedo the plan of a just peace, and to bypass the Security Council resolutions so that the U.S. secretary will find himself again preoccupied with easing the tension in southern Lebanon, instead of activating the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, in accordance with the land for peace equation, and implementing international legitimacy resolutions.

Damascus To Be 'Fully Responsive'

JN0907145894 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 9 Jul 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] While preparing to start a new Middle East tour, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher realizes that there is a gap between the stands of Syria and Israel on the concept of peace, withdrawal, timing, and other issues.

Christopher hopes, however, to make progress in the peace process on the Syrian-Israeli track. This track, according to sources in the U.S. capital, is the key to a comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict. If no progress is made on this track, the entire peace process will be useless and the region will remain a permanent flash point posing an endless threat to world peace and security.

The U.S. Administration knows the importance of this track and knows in advance that the Syrian and Israeli stands are wide apart. No doubt, it also knows the reasons that have prevented bridging the gap between the two stands.

The gap is caused by Israel's departure from the foundations of the peace process and the principles of the U.S. initiative. Thus, Syria is not to blame for the faltering of the peace process and the stalemate in the Washington bilateral talks. Quite the contrary. The ideas presented by Syria during those talks represented an effective contribution to the peace process. Had Israel responded to Syrian ideas based on UN resolutions and the land-for-peace principle, the peace process would have gone a long way by now.

When U.S. Administration quarters speak about differences between the positions of Israel and Syria, they know which party is to blame for the continuing gap. U.S. President Clinton and Secretary of State Christopher have sensed the sincerity of Syrian intentions toward peace. They have felt the sincere harmony of Syria's positions with the U.S. initiative and the international resolutions that were adopted at the Madrid conference as a basis of the peace process.

In return, Israel is still going in the opposite direction, seeking to abandon these foundations and ignoring international resolutions. All that Israel has done so far is to work to conclude separate deals and partial settlements which do not make peace, as the people who concluded them know. These deals eliminate the true opportunity for peace, created by Syria before others, when it participated in the Madrid conference and the Washington bilateral talks.

The Syrian position is therefore familiar to the United States and the chief of U.S. diplomacy, Christopher, more than others. More important still is that President Clinton's administration is convinced that Syria wants a just and comprehensive peace based on the foundations laid down by the international community and adopted by the two sponsors of the peace process.

What the U.S. Administration and the Russian sponsor should do is extricate the peace process from the ordeal it is facing as a result of Israel's stands because of its avoidance of any commitments according to the UN resolutions and the Madrid formula.

During his forthcoming tour, the U.S. secretary will find Damascus fully responsive, in order to advance the peace process. This response, however, will have no meaning if Israel does not abandon its positions and if it does not truly engage in the peace process.

Peace needs deeds, not words. Syria has offered all it has to make U.S. efforts succeed. The other party should, in return, offer something to prove its desire to establish the just and comprehensive peace pursued by the peoples of the region and the world.

Christopher's Task 'Complicated'

JN1007160694 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 10 Jul 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Events and facts in the occupied Arab territories confirm that deception does not make peace and that partial solutions and incomplete rights only lead to further complication and tension and lengthen the road to achieving a real peace. Despite the fact that many months have passed since the signing of the Oslo agreement, the events in the occupied Palestinian territories are clear evidence that the Palestinian Arab people reject this unjust agreement, which did not secure for them their right to the territories, to sovereignty, or to a safe future.

The daily confrontations and various forms of resistance carried out by the forces of the popular intifadah throughout the occupied Palestinian territories only mean that the Gaza-Jericho agreement was not the objective of this resistance and that this agreement did not achieve the acceptable minimum. Therefore, the Palestinian people refused to relinquish their historic rights, which were recognized by international laws and on which the U.S. initiative and the Madrid conference were launched. These are represented by Resolutions 242 and 338 and the land-for-peace principle.

The escalation of the aggressive Israeli policy against the Palestinian intifadah is a manifestation of the siege surrounding the Oslo agreement, the signatories of which claimed it carries the good news of peace. The acts of repression, persecution, and siege in the occupied Palestinian territories coincide with a more ferocious aggressive escalation against the Lebanese resistance and the Lebanese people inside and outside occupied southern Lebanon. This exposes Israel's policy and reveals its hostility to real peace efforts. It also reveals an undeniable fact that the Lebanese people, as well as the Palestinians, reject any formula that does not fully return to them their territories and rights.

Needless to say, Syria, its people, and its leadership always adhere to dignity, the territories, and full rights. The world, headed by the cosponsors of the peace process, realize this fact. They also realize that Syria is serious about achieving a just and comprehensive peace based on the implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy in order to eliminate all causes of tension, the possibilities of eruptions, and threats to the region's security and that of the world.

These clear and declared facts govern the U.S. secretary of state's anticipated tour of the region. The peace process is threatened by one side; that is, the Israeli side, through the escalating multifaceted aggression against the territories and human beings inside and outside the occupied territories. This requires the chief of U.S. diplomacy, the U.S. Administration, and the Russian cosponsor to intensify efforts to save the peace process from the state of siege and depression it is facing as a result of Israel's policy, which so far is avoiding the requirements of peace. This Israeli policy is also seeking, through means of deception, procrastination, and aggression as well as partial and separate solutions, to abort international efforts to achieve a just and comprehensive peace—a peace that guarantees security and stability in the region and reflects on world peace.

Will Secretary Christopher, during his anticipated tour, be carrying anything that will restore faith in the future of the peace process—a process based on respect for international law, the Madrid conference, and the land-for-peace principle on which the U.S. initiative was launched from the beginning? So far, there is no evidence that Israel wants to adhere to international resolutions and to the essence of real peace. This makes Christopher's task and that of the U.S. and Russian cosponsors more complicated in terms of living up to the objective of achieving a just and comprehensive peace that fulfills the desire of the international community.

India

Punjab Governor Nath Dies in Plane Crash

BK0907131294 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 9 Jul 94

[Text] In a tragic accident, the Punjab governor, Mr. Surendra Nath, died in a plane crash in Himachal Pradesh this morning. According to official sources in Chandigarh, nine members of his family, including his wife Gargi Devi, son, daughter, son-in-law, and daughter-in-law and their four children were also killed. All the three members of the crew also died. The state government aircraft crashed in dense forest near (Ronda) village, 12 km from Bunter airport, where the aircraft had to land. The plane took off from the capital, Chandigarh, at about 0850 [0320 GMT] this morning and crashed about an hour later.

Our Simla correspondent reports that the aircraft helicopter spotted all the bodies, which are in a mutilated condition. The identification process is on. Mr. Vivek Malhotra, the governor's son, was the deputy commissioner in Kulu. The governor's surviving son, Mr. Ranjit Malhotra, said that cremation will take place tomorrow in Chandigarh.

According to preliminary reports, when the plane crossed Bilaspur in Himachal pradesh, its radio contact was disrupted. Our Chandigarh correspondent reports that the distress signal of the crashed aircraft was picked up by the pilot of the Delhi-bound Indian Airlines flight. Coming from Leh, when it overflew the crash site around 1100 hours and they informed the Chandigarh airport. [sentence as heard] Later, helicopters flew in search of the plane. The place where the wreckage lies is reported to be inaccessible by road. Search parties on foot have reached the crash site. The Punjab chief minister, Mr. Beant Singh, cut short his visit to Ludhiana and reached Chandigarh for an emergency meeting of the state cabinet. Mr. Nath had also been holding additional charge as governor of Himachal Pradesh since November.

Iran

Foreign Ministry Criticizes G-7 Statement on Terror

NC1107060294 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 11 Jul 94

[Text] Responding to the statement issued at the conclusion of the G-7 summit session calling for the participation of the Islamic Republic of Iran in guaranteeing international peace and security, Foreign Ministry Spokesman Mohammadi announced: The Islamic Republic of Iran has always been at the forefront in supporting international peace and security and has consistently adopted a very active stance for preventing war and bloodshed in crisis-ridden areas.

Mohammadi added: The Islamic Republic of Iran's innovative and pioneering approach to preventing war and bloodshed in the crisis-ridden areas such as Nagorno-Karabakh, Afghanistan, and Tajikistan proves this statement.

Regarding terrorism, which was mentioned in the statement, the Foreign Ministry spokesman said: The Islamic Republic of Iran has always been the victim of this phenomenon, involving terrorists who are even now being supported and assisted by some of these countries.

Referring to the catastrophe of the explosion in the holy shrine of Imam Reza, peace be upon him, and the murder of two priests by the grouplet of the Monafeqin [meaning hypocrites, term used for the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization, MKO], he described these atrocities as the height of the misanthropic actions by this terrorist grouplet.

Mohammadi added: While the Islamic Republic of Iran vehemently condemns resorting to terrorism of any kind anywhere, it considers the criterion for the G-7's opposition to terrorism contradictory when viewed within the framework of these countries' practical approach to the terrorist Monafeqin organization, the members and installations of which operate freely in their countries under various names.

U.S., British Terror Stances Slammed

NC1107084394 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 11 Jul 94

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentaries Group]

[Text] In their statement issued at the end of their session in Naples, Italy, the G-7 countries called on the Islamic Republic of Iran to participate in efforts for international peace and security. Pressure from the United States found the seven great industrial countries discussing this issue. But resistance by some members prevented the United States from achieving its objective of isolating Iran.

This time the United States and Britain exerted pressure against Iran, which led to the inclusion of a reference to Iran—in the form of criticism—in the concluding statement, calling on it to participate in efforts for the so-called task of ensuring international peace and security.

Inasmuch as this stance reflects the view of the United States and Britain—the old foes of the Iranian people—it is not unexpected for Islamic Iran, especially as the security of the Iranian people of various nationalities and religions is being threatened and violated by the Monafeqin [meaning hypocrites, term used to describe the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization, MKO], which is nurtured by the West. These attacks have assumed a role that goes against nations. So what can the United States and Britain's stance at the G-7 session mean but support for the Monafeqin and a threat to international peace and security?

Since the victory of the revolution, Islamic Iran has constantly been among the victims of terrorism, which has manifested itself in various forms and imposed upon Iran on the individual, national, and international level. It is very regrettable that while the United States and Britain are the real supporters of the Monafeqin terrorists—and these two countries were also the main supporters of the Iraqi regime in its aggressive war against Iran—the regional allies of these two countries, that is, the Zionist regime and Saudi Arabia, are also generating regional crises and terrorist actions.

Instead of inviting them to adhere to human rights and end their belligerent actions, they have directed their attacks at this side [Iran]. No one has any doubts today that international security, peace, and human rights are being sacrificed in the interests of the greater industrial countries spearheaded by the powers of world arrogance, that is, the United States.

The world daily witnesses the slaughter of humans and human rights, as well as international peace and security in Algeria, occupied Palestine, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Somalia, Afghanistan, and numerous other places, the continuation of which has resulted in a balancing of the interests of the Security Council members with those of the powerful countries, especially the United States.

This stance on Iran adopted by the G-7 session can only be interpreted within the framework of the violation of peace and security by these plundering world powers. Iran has indicated that it is constantly at the forefront of every effort to ensure just peace and security in the world. Iran's efforts in contributing to the stability of the sensitive and strategic Persian Gulf region and resolving regional and supraregional [fara manteqeh'i] crises has projected a clear image for people everywhere. The false accusations by the United States and Britain cannot tarnish it—even slightly.

G-7 Minister's Remarks on Terrorism Noted

LD1007153094 Tehran IRNA in English 1426 GMT 10 Jul 94

[Text] Naples, Italy, July 10, IRNA—The heads of the seven industrial powers have called on world countries to cooperate extensively in combating "terrorism," according to the Italian prime minister, Silvio Berlusconi.

Speaking here on Saturday evening, he said the G-7 called on the world states to restrict terrorist activities and not to sponsor terrorism in their respective countries.

Iran has repeatedly asked the Western countries to stop sheltering the terrorist Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO) and discontinue its political and financial support for the group.

In a series of terrorist operations since 1981, the MKO has so far assassinated hundreds of Iranians.

In their latest heinous crime, the MKO terrorists martyred scores of pilgrims at the holy shrine of Imam Reza (AS) in Mashhad on June 20. They also ruthlessly murdered two Christian pastors in Iran.

The MKO maintains active presence in Western countries, particularly in France, Britain, and Italy. The London government has recently provided the terrorist organization with a radio station. France has also given shelter to tens of the MKO leaders and members. In the U.S., the MKO has close contacts with the representatives of the Congress, particularly its Zionist members.

In response to a question on U.S. attempts to make the G-7 adopt a united stance against Iran, the Italian prime minister said the issue had not been discussed at the summit meet but by the foreign ministers of the seven countries.

Meanwhile, the Italian foreign minister Antonio Martino told IRNA here Saturday that Italy will adopt a "constructive" stance in its relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

On Iran's debt to his country, he said Rome had a "constructive" stance on rescheduling of loans which would be to the benefit of Iran.

Asked whether they had raised the issue of Iran at the G7 foreign ministers session, Martino responded in positive and said they expected Iran to adopt a common stance against terrorism to resolve the question worldwide.

He did not say if the heads of the seven industrial powers would respond positively to an Iranian request to condemn terrorist operations against Iranian people.

Editorial Assesses Summit's Objectives, Participants

NC0907101194 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 9 Jun 94

[Commentary by Central News Research Group]

[Text] The 20th summit of the seven industrial countries commenced deliberations in Naples last night. In this 2-day session—which is being attended by the heads of the United States, Japan, Canada, Britain, France, Italy, and Germany—discussions will be held on economic issues such as coordinating the monetary and financial policies among these countries, unemployment, and the future of the world economy and trade.

Similarly, on the second day of the session, which Russian leader Boris Yeltsin will attend, the heads of the G-7 countries will discuss important political problems of the world. Among the most salient topics to come under discussion at the session will be the efforts of the industrial countries to combat the fall of the dollar against European and Japanese currencies. This is because at present the dollar has plummeted to its lowest level ever against the Japanese yen, and this is considered a threat to the world's monetary and financial markets.

Economic experts believe that the chasm in the U.S. trade balance and its unprecedented trade deficit with Japan are due to the weakness of the dollar against the yen. Even though a depreciation of the dollar against the yen may result in enhancing the competitive power of U.S. products abroad, the continuation of this trend heightens the danger of instability in Western markets.

This comes at a time when the U.S. President is stressing the importance of economic relations with Tokyo and Japan [as heard] and saying that Japan is aiming to expand its economy by weakening the dollar, while he wants a stronger and more valuable dollar. On the other hand, the issue of the free markets of the world in the year 2000, which is an question posed by Clinton at the G-7 summit in Italy, constitutes a new step in intensifying pressure on Japan to open its doors to Western imports.

In the opinion of U.S. experts, in the current circumstances where the recession of the past few years has ended and there is evidence of an economic boom in the industrial world, the United States can—by claiming a need for greater commercial freedom and the elimination of the current obstacles—not only rectify its balance of trade with Japan but also resolve its economic difficulties such as unemployment, thus ensuring its economic growth.

In addition to economic issues, the heads of the seven industrial countries will also discuss political problems of the world, seeking ways and means for controlling the present developments on the basis of greater agreement among themselves. Even though the final decisions to be adopted by the G-7 session are yet to come, it is unlikely that these countries will easily succeed in attaining their objectives, given the current era of economic turmoil.

U.S., Japan Economic Ties Viewed

LD1007160694 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1004 GMT 10 Jul 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The 20th gathering of the leaders of the seven industrial states continues after two days of debating and conferring on international issues and reviewing the economic problems and crises they are beset by. It is expected that they will end their session by issuing a resolution.

Efforts carried out in Naples once again demonstrated how the industrial West begins action in order to extricate itself from the cul-de-sac of problems that grow daily more intractable and tries to transfer its domestic crises to other areas of the world.

What distinguishes the 90's sessions from those in earlier decades is the elimination of the Communist bloc and the West's lone tampering in the world arena. Some believe that the existing economic conflicts among Western industrial nations are extensively intractable and inflexible. That has allowed the process of the former Cold War to continue in other channels, and controversial contrasts continue in a fundamental and structural manner and cause a friction of interests [as heard] between the industrialized and developing states.

After the end of ideological conflicts and bloc-forming of the Cold War era, America intends to regulate the existing trend according to its domestic, regional, and international requirements. Such a situation has resulted in a serious conflict between Europe and America, as well as Japan and America. On the basis of the existing changes in the behavioral pattern of the Western industrialized nations, it seems necessary for them to somehow, under the light of those changes, come to a general understanding on a new economic order.

What is of paramount importance is America's approach toward Japan—a Japan that recently, as a result of domestic conditions, has been unable to move with authority in the world arena as before. Under such circumstances, Japan hopes to benefit from the permanent membership of the UN Security Council and the formation of the Southern China region—comprising Hong Kong and the Guangzhou and Fuzhou in China. If Japan acts successfully in moving this economic sphere it can hope for countries like South Korea to join that bloc as well. In that case, because of its special superiorities, Japan will be able to guarantee its growth until 2010.

On the other hand, Japan would like to be a strategic ally of America in order to remain immune from likely threats by China and North Korea. But America, who itself has interests in southeastern Asia, tries still have the first word in this region while reducing its balance of trade by using the slogan of liberating the world trade and fluctuating the value of the dollar against solid regional currencies, especially the yen.

According to economic analysts, the United States and Japan may remain good political-military allies for each other, but in all probability they will be staunch economic competitors. Despite all that rivalry, at the moment America is trying somehow to come to an agreement with Japan over economic issues so that it can prepare itself for a more serious competition in the 21st century with rivals such as China and Russia.

Foreign Ministry Summons British Charge d'Affaires

LD1107100094 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 11 Jul 94

[Text] The British charge d'affaires in Tehran was summoned to the Foreign Ministry this morning to receive a strong protest from the Islamic Republic of Iran in response to recent remarks by the British prime minister and foreign secretary with regard to Iran's links with the Irish Republican Army.

According to our reporter, the Foreign Ministry's director-general for Western European affairs rejected all accusations relating to financial support for or links between Iran and the Irish Republican Army and expressed regret about the renewal of such accusations by British officials without the presentation of any evidence.

British 'Overt, Covert Plots' Seen

NC1007070594 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 23 Jun 94 p 16

[Political commentary: "Britain and Iran: Repetition of Failed Experiences"]

[Text] With the Islamic revolution, the British Government embarked on overt and covert plots against the Islamic Republic of Iran and accorded political and propaganda support to the plotters. It has gone a step further.

Since last Friday, the British Government has placed a one-hour slot on Radio Spectrum at the disposal of the terrorist Monafeqin [Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization, MKO]. With the political and propaganda support of the British Government, the Monafeqin have broadened the scope of their anti-Islamic, anti-Iranian activities by using their new radio station in London.

The recent action by the British in overt support of a terrorist grouplet comes at a time when London has been disseminating fallacious claims regarding Iran's assistance in providing information and weapons to the IRA, thus seeking to initiate a psychological war against Iran. This failed to win the support of its allies and the revelation of Britain's espionage against Iran put London in a defensive position.

Within a few weeks, London gave a radio station to a grouplet, the role of which (according to its own leaders) in terrorist actions martyring government officials and ordinary people is quite clear.

This action by London merits attention for the following reasons:

1. By taking such steps, Britain is exposing another dimension of its opposition to Islamic Iran. Placing a radio station at the disposal of the Monafeqin grouplet is just one aspect of the issue.

On Monday night [20 June] BBC radio disseminated an interview with a Monafeqin figure, a spokesman for the so-called National Resistance Council [of the MKO], concerning a bomb in the shrine of Imam Reza (peace be upon him). It thus took the unprecedented step of bestowing legitimacy upon and giving official status to this terrorist group.

Summing up London's latest actions against Iran indicates a new phase in hostile British actions against the Islamic revolution.

2. Britain's actions in trampling upon the laws of its own country are worth pondering.

Based on bills approved in 1990, a private radio station in Britain can only be placed at the disposal of bona fide individuals authorized to disseminate their programs. It should not be affiliated with terrorist grouplets and should not use propaganda instruments to spread controversial political viewpoints against the public interest.

In relation with this law, you can deduce that London is even prepared to trample underfoot its own approved laws merely to antagonize Iran! British officials have left no stone unturned to express their animosity. Repeating the failed experiences of others is certainly not to their advantage in view of the identity crisis of the ruling party!

Radio on Events in Algeria, Impact on G-7 Summit

NC1007073794 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 10 Jul 94

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentaries Group]

[Text] The killing of seven Italians in Algeria has again focused the attention of the international community on the sinister consequences of the continuing violence in that country. This was the bloodiest attack on foreigners in Algeria. Since Shahrivar [month beginning 23 August] last year, when the first attack on foreigners took place in Algiers, around 40 citizens of various countries, Western in particular, have been killed in similar violence.

Reaction by some Western governments, especially by France and the United States, has primarily been to grant priority to help the Algerian Government solve the crisis. In unison with the Algerian rulers, these governments have blamed the Islamists for the continuing violence and the attacks on foreigners. Following the emergence of a new type of violence, the Algerian Government scored more successes in gaining political and economic support by these governments and, under the aegis of such assistance, it intensified the suppression of the popular movement in the country.

The U.S. Administration, which doubts the efficacy of a violent method in confronting the prodemocracy majority in Algeria, has started to follow in France's footsteps. France supports the severe suppression of Islamists by the Algerian leaders.

In this midst there is another faction among the West's big countries that supports respect for the people's vote. This faction considers an improved situation, order and peace, and peaceful coexistence in Algeria to require including popularly elected deputies in the country's political structure and believes that the Islamists cannot be ignored as a powerful social group.

The military ruling Algeria have always tried to paint a terrorist picture of this group and thus gain more support from the West. Some reports indicate that Algerian rule has formed special groups to carry out terrorist operations and it attributes these operations to the Muslim strugglers. The Algerian regime has attributed the recent assassination of the seven Italians to the Islamic Salvation Front.

Political experts believe that if the Algerian leaders can convince Italian statesmen that this act was perpetrated by the Islamists, they can urge the Italians to adopt a more active stance on developments in Algeria and add Italy to the list of its political and economic mentors in the fight against the people. The impact this will have on the G-7 summit agenda and decisions in Naples should not be ignored.

Loss of Government Control in Algeria Seen

NC1107101294 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 11 Jul 94

[Commentary by News Research and Commentary Group]

[Text] According to the latest reports received from Algeria, the country's security forces announced that eight more Islamists have been killed in various clashes in the country. News from Algeria indicates that every day nearly 40 Algerian citizens are martyred in armed clashes with security forces.

These reports state that in most Algerian cities, as well as in parts of the capital, the armed forces have lost control of the situation and there is no evidence of government rule in these areas. In fact, it is on this basis that most political analysts describe the current clashes in Algeria as a bloody popular revolution that has resulted from the ruling party ignoring the results of parliamentary elections. This blocked all avenues for political activity in the country and even now, intense pressure and news censorship prevail.

It is obvious that this extensive movement by the Algerian people—in view of the legitimacy they attained in the past elections—has the ability to elicit the attention of world public opinion, which is exactly what the ruling party has been unable to attain. This is because the current ruling party in Algeria has taken control after ignoring the country's Constitution and the most rudimentary principles for attaining power. In such circumstances, armed confrontation will metamorphose into an uprising of the people, who are in the right. The other side pins its only hope on the colonialist and arrogant factions. This is precisely what the Algerian ruling party was seeking a few days ago at the session in Naples, Italy and what it partially attained with French intervention.

Apparently, whatever transpired in Naples with regard to Algeria will not be advantageous to the Algerian ruling party and its supporting governments. This is especially true since the fragile stances at the Naples session were forced to allude to the need for repeat elections in Algeria.

Commentary on Missing Israeli Pilot, Diplomats

LD0707124194 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0950 GMT 7 Jul 94

[Text] Thirteen years have elapsed since the kidnapping of four Iranian diplomats in Beirut. Now the time has come that by arresting a number of the elements involved in this inhumane action, a fresh effort should begin to determine their fate.

The current trial of Samir Ja'ja', a ringleader of Lebanon's Phalangist forces and one of the criminals of Lebanon's civil war, has shown that Iranian diplomats were taken hostage by this Israeli-allied organization when Lebanon was occupied by the Zionist regime.

Unfortunately, as a result of the splitting of this organization into two rival groups, each accuses the other of holding the Iranian hostages.

What is interesting among all this is the fact that the Iranian diplomats had full diplomatic immunity, based on the international conventions, and that Lebanon and the Lebanese Government or the occupying forces were obligated to ensure their security. It is surprising that one of the factions of the Lebanese Phalangist forces, responsible for the hostage-taking operations, has confessed that Iranian hostages have been handed over to Israel and have been transferred to the occupied territories. However, so far the international organizations which normally are the defenders of the implementation of various conventions and international regulations have not condemned this kidnapping despite the passage of 13 years and have not carried out any efforts to determine their fate.

A very interesting fact is that these organizations and a number of Western countries, under the cover and title of humanitarianism, dispatch an envoy every day to Syria and Lebanon to find out about the fate of an Israeli pilot whose plane crashed while bombing the innocent people of Lebanon.

How is it that the life of this Israeli who is a war criminal and deserves punishment and trial for the bombardment of defenseless people is so important to the supporters of human rights while they ignore the international conventions of Vienna on diplomatic rights while the taking-hostage of four Iranian diplomats who enjoyed diplomatic immunity, is considered to be of no significance? This sort of approach could only be assessed within one framework. That is the biased and selective [khozeneshi] policies of the international organizations and powers who distort a human issue by creating political and propaganda sensation or who create a deadly news silence or leave something unsaid, and who portray the fate of an obvious criminal as a humanitarian issue.

Supreme Court President: No Political Prisoners Held

LD1007175094 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 10 Jul 94

[Text] In a statement, Morteza Moqtada'i, the president of the State Supreme Court, condemned the recent bomb blast at the holy shrine of Imam Reza and attempts to smuggle bombs into the shrine of Her Holiness Ma'sumah, the shrine of Imam Khomeyni, may God be satisfied with his deeds, and the Makki mosque of Zahedan, and condemned the murder of the two Christian pastors and also the plot to assassinate a Christian priest in Esfahan by the hypocrites [Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization, MKO] and the criminal agents of global arrogance.

Also in the statement he announced: As it has become repeatedly clear to the free people of the world, there are no political prisoners in Islamic Iran; and to allege that political prisoners are executed as drug smugglers is baseless and blind propaganda of global arrogance to find a cover up for their own countless crimes and to pave the way for a new wave of their own crimes.

He added: Respect for legal norms and the social rights of mankind is observed in the best possible shape in the Islamic Republic of Iran, and respecting people's rights and administering justice are part of the lofty objectives of the holy Islamic system.

UN Says No Iranian Involvement in Kurd Clashes

LD1007144094 Tehran IRNA in English 1408 GMT 10 Jul 94

[Text] Sanandaj, Kordestan Province, July 10, IRNA—A number of U.N. envoys and foreign reporters visiting areas under the control of the Islamic Movement party in southern part of Iraq's Kurdistan over the past two days have admitted that Iran has had no part in recent clashes in northern Iraq.

Over the past two days, the visitors have inspected the trenches manned by the party's forces as well as their weapons and ammunition, coming to the conclusion that rumors of Iran's military assistance to the party and its allies are all baseless, a spokesman for the party said Sunday [10 July].

The Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) led by Jalal Talabani has accused Iran of providing political and military aid for the Islamic Movement party and its allies such as Kurdistan Democratic Party and Revolutionary Hizballah of Kurdistan.

During the war in northern Iraq, Talabani time and again charged the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps with shelling Kurdish areas near Iranian border.

Editorial Views 'Arafat's Return to Gaza

NC1007091294 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 4 Jul 94 p 12

[Unattributed commentary: " 'Arafat in Gaza"]

[Excerpts] After 27 years in exile, PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat arrived in the Gaza Strip. Conflicting views have been expressed in relation with this return and its impact. Pro-'Arafat forces largely see this as the beginning of a new chapter in history and a prologue to the liberation of the other occupied territories on the West Bank of Jordan as well as to the establishment of a Palestinian state. His opponents regard this as a betrayal of Palestinian aspirations and are so enraged that a Palestinian leader has described 'Arafat's visit not as a visit by a national hero, but a visit by a defeated man.

That 'Arafat has not entered the Gaza Strip as a national hero is very true. But the question is: Why was he granted a hero's welcome?! If we assess 'Arafat's visit we can say that the issue is not simply one of being a hero or not. In political transactions and in compromise deals no one can expect to have heroes under any circumstances. Heroism belongs to the era when a revolution can seize power from the hands of the enemy by revolutionary rage. 'Arafat and the PLO did not carry out such a revolutionary act that they might expect a red carpet welcome. A political compromise took place under the worst conditions possible. And compromise does not create heroes; it is the outcome of transactions by mediocre men. [passage omitted]

'Arafat has come to Gaza knowingly and through compromise and he is well aware that he is not a national hero for all the Palestinians. He has chosen to tread a path that he thinks is the most realistic path under the circumstances. If others have another path that they want to tread, 'Arafat cannot prevent them from doing so. It is better for these people to declare their stances and to tread their own path. [passage omitted]

'Arafat is the target of his enemies at home and abroad. A Zionist group has even set a $30,000 reward for 'Arafat's death. And in a world full of veteran murderers, $30,000 is no small amount. But 'Arafat's death will not change the conditions. The Palestinian revolution has set off on such a course that other 'Arafats will rise with possibly more dangerous ideas. Who knows? In the choice between acquiring power—even if limited—and remaining an eternal hero, 'Arafat has chosen power. If Palestine truly needs a hero, it should find someone else. 'Arafat has chosen compromise and a way to acquire power. He has been enticed by power. [passage omitted]

There is not the least doubt that Palestine cannot be liberated through compromise. Palestine was occupied by force and it can be liberated only by force and by revolutionary rage. 'Arafat has deviated from this revolutionary course. Those who truly continue to believe in this should pick up the banner and arms that the Gaza-Jericho accord convinced 'Arafat to cast down. If there are still those who consider the liberation of Palestine to be their ultimate goal, they should stand up and clarify their stances now. The rejection of the compromise is the definite right of each Palestinian. We should also add that nothing should be expected from abroad, since the support for Palestine is more a slogan than a deed. This is something the Palestinians themselves have experienced for nearly 50 years with all their being. There is no need for us to repeat this reality again.

Reasons for 'Arafat's Visit to Saudi Arabia Seen

NC1007064594 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 10 Jul 94

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentaries Group]

[Text] In a move the like of which has not seen since the oil war, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Saudi Arabia yesterday. During the visit he will meet Saudi King Fahd and discuss expanding relations and cooperation.

Since the crisis of the occupation of Kuwait four years ago, PLO relations with the Persian Gulf shaykhdoms, especially with Saudi Arabia, have deteriorated because of the PLO's support for Iraq's aggressive policies, something that halted the shaykhdoms' financial assistance to it.

But when the PLO accepted the rules of Washington's game and joined the compromise process in the region and, above all, when it signed the Gaza-Jericho Self-Rule Accord within the framework of White House efforts to solve the Middle East crisis, most political analysts foresaw the possibility of an improvement in the PLO's relations with the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council members. These analysts believe that by signing the Gaza-Jericho self-rule accord, the PLO has joined the U.S. camp in the Middle East and that it is only natural for the other members of this camp to support it.

Since the Gaza-Jericho Autonomy Accord and the Middle East peace talks in general are extremely important for the United States in view of its immense political investment in the issue, the resumption of financial assistance by the Arab countries, most notably by Saudi Arabia, to the PLO is expected to be the major topic of discussion between 'Arafat and Fahd. The Gaza-Jericho self-rule accord is primarily based on economic plans and, from the viewpoint of its engineers, the success of the compromise process depends upon financial assistance.

Among the other issues dictating closer relations between the PLO and the Persian Gulf shaykhdoms is the problem of the Palestinian refugees. Around 3 million Palestinian refugees live outside the occupied territories. On the basis of the American plan for a Middle East solution, these refugees should reside outside Palestine so that their problem will be solved at last. Since the oil-rich Arab countries in the Persian Gulf have a greater capacity for accepting these refugees—many are already living in these countries—the possibility that this problem between the PLO and every country in the south of the Persian Gulf will be solved soon with U.S. supervision and assistance cannot be ruled out.

Humanitarian Aid Offer Extended to Yemen

NC1007095994 Paris AFP in English 0824 GMT 10 Jul 94

[Text] Tehran, July 10 (AFP)—Iran offered on Sunday [10 July] to send humanitarian aid to Yemen and urged other Islamic countries to help rebuild the country after its two-month civil war.

Deputy parliament speaker Hasan Rowhani voiced satisfation over the "end of war and the return of security" to Yemen and said Iran was ready to send aid.

"We hope the Islamic countries, especially those in the region, would help the process of reconstruction in Yemen," he said.

On Thursday, troops loyal to President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih announced the capture of Aden, driving out the separatist forces of southern leader 'Ali Salim al-Bid.

In an apparent reference to Saudi Arabia, Rowhani urged the people of Yemen to "learn about the recent events and re-evaluate relations with neighbors and regional countries."

Iran's official media has accused Riyadh of interfering in Yemen's civil war, with the state radio saying on Saturday that the fall of the southern Yemeni city of Aden was a "landmark defeat" for Saudi Arabia.

Last week, a parliamentary delegation from northern Yemen visited Iran, where it held several meetings with top officials here.

Since the beginning of the civil war on May 5, Iran has repeatedly urged northern and southern Yemenis to stay united.

Radio on Fall of Aden, Failure of Saudi Policies

NC0907131194 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 9 Jul 94

[Commentary by News Research and Commentary Group]

[Text] With the fall of Aden, al-Mukalla and other points under the control of the South Yemeni forces, the bloody 2-month long war reached its end and most of the South Yemeni leaders fled to neighboring countries such as Oman, Djibouti, and Saudi Arabia. Thus, the crisis that has plagued Yemen for four years overtly and covertly, ever since the unification of the country, has ended. Even so, most political analysts believe that the end of the military phase of the crisis cannot be considered the end of the whole crisis.

In practice, the political and military crisis, especially in the past few months, had a very negative impact from Yemen in the political, economic, and security aspects. The devastation stemming from the war and from the destruction of the country's economic resources, further weakened the already fragile and weak economy and made it even more vulnerable.

Thus, the end of the war cannot be considered the end of the matter. With the defeat and flight of the southern independence-seekers, the unification of Yemen should not be considered accomplished. In fact, the conditions are now conducive to those steps toward north-south unity that the government of a unified Yemen, due to obstacles, was unable to take over the past four years in order to make the unification take root and become structural.

Accordingly, the end of the war has created a new situation in that country. However, the combat victory should not obscure the other difficulties from the eyes of the triumphant leaders of Yemen. Otherwise, these problems will once again spawn new political crises. The unification experience has been unsuccessful in the Arab world so far. In the past decade—since the unification of Egypt and Syria in the al-Nasir era—until now, many unification plans have been proposed among Arab countries and agreed upon, and some steps have actually been taken. However all of these moves have been affected by domestic and external factors and ultimately met with failure and defeat.

This indicates the sensitivity of the process of unification and proves that the Yemeni leaders have a difficult but sacred task ahead of them.

On the other hand, according to many political observers, the defeat of the south Yemeni forces can be construed as a defeat for most of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] member countries, especially of Saudi Arabia. The latter staked a lot and invested politically, economically, and militarily on the partition of Yemen and on keeping the south Yemeni forces pitted against the north Yemeni forces. In gauging the power of resistance and resilience of the southerners and in evaluating regional and international support for their policies on Yemen, Saudi Arabia made a blatant blunder and as a result suffered an ignominious political defeat.

In practice, neither the countries of the six-plus-two accord nor the international supporters of Saudi Arabia—that is, the United States and Britain—go further than providing political support and lip service to Saudi Arabia. This bitter defeat should prove a remarkable experience for Saudi Arabia and should drive home the lesson that it cannot always depend on foreign support for its policies. Therefore, it should adopt a policy of friendship and neighborliness toward its neighbors in accordance with realities and should refrain from interfering in their internal affairs.

In any case, in a preliminary appraisal, the reports received on the fugitive south Yemeni leaders taking refuge and assembly in Saudi Arabia indicate that the Riyadh higher echelons not only have not learned a lesson from their latest defeat, they are also seeking to plunge themselves and the region into another dangerous game. And in practice, they are seeking to forge contradictory unions and coalitions and conflicting axes in the region in order to pave the way for foreign intervention for their own benefit.

'Bitter Defeat' for Saudi Arabia

LD0907121894 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1000 GMT 9 Jul 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] The capture of Aden, the bastion of Yemen's southern separatists, by the northern military forces after two months of bloody war has ended the military crisis of Yemen. [passage omitted] The defeat of the separatists is a bitter defeat for their foreign supporters, especially [Saudi] Arabia and certain members of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC]. This defeat results from Arabia's incorrect analysis of the power of Yemen's southern separatists and the level of their resistance against Sanaa on the one hand, and from Arabia's miscalculation of the level of support for its policies by its international backers—the United States and Britain— on the other. In fact, whether Saudi Arabia learns a lesson from this bitter defeat and return to wise and proper policies, or, on the contrary, whether it vindictively pursues its interventionist policies is a question the answer to which will shed light on the new situation in the region. [passage omitted]

Armenian Leader Blames MKO for Priests' Murder

LD0707131294 Tehran IRNA in English 1205 GMT 7 Jul 94

[Text] Tehran, July 7, IRNA—A senior Armenian minority leader of Tehran on Thursday condemned the terrorist Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization for its murder of pastors Tatabus Mikhailian and Mehdi Dibaj.

"Dealing a blow to national unity was the main motive behind the crimes," Dr. Lun Davidian, head of the Armenian archdiocese of Tehran told IRNA. Davidian said that sound documents and evidence obtained in recent days proved that the MKO agents were behind the crimes. He said the Armenian community of Iran expected international human rights organizations to condemn this inhuman act now that those responsible for the crime have been identified.

The archbishop thanked Iranian security officials for their rapid identification of the culprits and warned all minority groups in Iran against such terrorist acts of the MKO. He said the Armenian archdiocese of Tehran felt confident that as before the Iranian minority groups would not get involved in the propaganda campaign launched by global arrogance against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Religious Minorities Accuse MKO of Murdering Pastors

LD1007205994 Tehran IRNA in English 2023 GMT 10 Jul 94

[Text] Tehran, July 10, IRNA—Iran's association of Jewish community here on Sunday [10 July] condemned the terrorist Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO) for assassinating two Iranian Christian pastors.

Issuing a statement, the association said that the foundation of the Islamic Republic of Iran will not be shaken through murdering spiritual leaders of the religious minorities.

Also in today's news, Armenian member of parliament, Vartan Vartanian in Majlis denounced recent MKO murdering of the two Christian pastors, Tatabus Mikailian and Mehdi Dibaj.

He called on the advocates of human rights in the world to hold the terrorist MKO responsible for making the innocent people target of its deadly action.

According to IRNA correspondent in Orumiyeh, Western Azarbayjan-e Province, Thomas Maryiam, the "khalifeh" of Catholic Assyrians in Orumiyeh, at the end of Sunday mass condemned the murder of two Christian pastors, Mikailian and Dibaj.

He said that killing a human being is condemned in all the religions and called on the Islamic Republic of Iran to bring those involved in the murder of the two Christian pastors to justice.

Meanwhile, Zoroasterian member of parliament, Parviz Ravani said in Majlis today that the terrorist MKO should know that they would not attain their ugly objectives through such terrorist actions.

IRNA correspondent in Kerman reports that association of Iranian Zoroasterians in Kerman Province issued a statement today holding the terrorist MKO responsible for bombing the sacred places and murdering two Christian pastors.

The statement said that such terrorist actions were engineered by MKO to create enmity among the Iranian nation.

In another development, association of Jewish community in Esfahan condemned the terrorist MKO for killing the two Iranian pastors.

Issuing a statement, the Jewish community in Esfahan said that such action will never lead to misunderstanding between the divine religions in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

More Details Released on MKO 'Terrorists'

LD0707202094 Tehran IRNA in English 1952 GMT 7 Jul 94

[Text] Tehran, July 7, IRNA—The terrorist Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO) in a bid to disgrace the Islamic Republic of Iran had specific plans to bomb several foreign airlines and trade offices in Tehran, an informed security source said here Thursday [7 July].

The recently arrested terrorists who were planning to bomb the shrine of Hazrat Ma'sumeh (a.s.) in Qom and the shrine of the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the late Imam Khomeyni, in southern Tehran have confessed that they are also responsible for the recent murder of the two pastors [as received].

Two women were arrested Tuesday on two separate locations. One of them a 25-year-old woman was arrested in southern Tehran while carrying a bomb into Imam Khomeyni's shrine and the other one arrested while carrying a bomb into the shrine of Hazrat Ma'sumeh (a.s.) in Qom.

Their accomplice, Farahnaz Anami who was invloved in the killing of Pastor Tatabous Mikhailian was also arrested in Zahedan Wednesday while trying to flee the country.

The investigations here have revealed that the terrorist MKO intended to plant bombs in Tehran-based British Airways and Lufthansa airline offices as well as foreign trade offices in Tehran whose respective governments have good commercial ties with Tehran.

The source said that there were hand-written statements found in the houses of the arrested terrorists which indicate that they wanted to put the blame for explosions on the Islamic groups in Tehran.

To undermine Tehran's foreign relations they planned to send tracts to foreign embassies and foreign news agencies in Tehran portraying the Islamic groups such as

Tehran's Hezbollah and Ashura Brigade as the main groups responisble for the bombing.

Also in the news today, Iran's television showed the photos of the three female MKO members who have confessed to being responsible for planned acts of subversion and homicide. In its nine p.m. (local time) news the Iranian television showed the bag which was carried into the shrine of the founder of the Islamic revolution, the late Imam Khomeyni. The bag which was carried by an MKO terrorist contained a 2.5-kilogram explosives which was hidden at the bottom part of the bag.

Also shown during the news hour was the book which was carried into the shrine of Hazrat Ma'soumeh in Qom. The book which looked like any other prayer book contained a 3.5-kilogram bomb which the MKO terrorist intended to plant inside the shrine of Hazrat Ma'soumeh in Qom.

Arrested MKO Member Interviewed

LD0807192894 Tehran IRNA in English 1853 GMT 8 Jul 94

["Mikailian killer interviewed by Shahnaz Hassani"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, July 8, IRNA—After receiving the news of the arrest of Farahnaz Anami, a member of the terrorist Mojahedin-e Khalq Organizatioin (MKO) and one of three women who have confessed to have been involved in the killing of Reverend Tatabous Mikailian, I decided to interview her at any cost.

I wanted to ask her all the questions that might emerge in the mind of any reporter. Getting the permission to interview Anami was not easy. But after spending a lot of efforts I was able to gain the permission to interview her. At 9:00 a.m. Friday morning, I was led to where she was detained.

Once inside the room, I faced her. The door was closed behind me. I was alone with her. She was looking at the ground and did not say a thing. There was a few moments of silence between us which seemed to last for ages. It did not seem that she was inclined to break the silence. The time for the interview was limited. I had to begin from somewhere.

I asked her about her age and her education. She said laconically "26". But she was quick to add that "It really does not make any difference how much education I have had."

I asked her how she came to become a member of the MKO. "The organization does not mean a thing for me now. It is all in the past. Now that I am detained there is no point in talking about how I joined the organization," Anami responded.

—"But you did not disagree with my request for interviewing you. What is it that you want to talk about then?"

—"I just want to say that I am sorry for myself, for my family and for the family of Pastor Mikailian."

—"Would you have also said that you were sorry if you had not been arrested?"

—"In the framework of a secret organization what only matters is obeying the orders given by the organization. There is no room for human emotions and connections. Now that I am no longer within the organizational framework and everything has come to an end, I only think of the moment I was committing the murder. I think about the victim's family. When I saw the son of the victim on Wednesday afternoon I could only say I was sorry."

—"How did you make contact with MKO to get your orders?"

—"Our method of contact was varied. Sometimes it was through phone calls or through contacts who are stationed in Europe. Sometimes I would arrange meetings in different locations in the city or in areas that were not so busy. Sometimes I would receive orders from organization's elements stationed inside the country and would coordinate the tasks."

—"Could you talk a bit about your last task?"

—"It was the killing of Pastor Mikailian. I was supposed to leave the country after that."

—"Did you plan the murder or did you receive someone else's help in planning the murder."

—"All the detailed plans are handed down to us by the organization. We only execute the plans. We cannot modify the type of mission or the person or persons involved because the organization says that everything has been thought out carefully."

—"Don't you want to talk about how you met Pastor Mikailian, his murder? Don't you want the people to know?"

Here she became silent for a moment and said, "The organization had told me that I was to establish close ties with Mikailian under the pretext that I was interested in Christianity. After gaining his confidence, I was supposed to invite him to my house—which was our "team house". There I and my comrades were supposed to kill him."

—"Why a Christian pastor, of all the people in the country?"

—"The organization had planned everything beforehand. They told us that after it became known that Mikailian was missing we would begin a campaign to say that Mikailian had been arrested by the regime. The human rights organizations would then begin to start their negative campaigns against Iran."

—"But how were you sure that this plan would succeed?"

—"In order to show that the killing of this pastor had been done beyond reasonable doubt by Iran, the organization had made contacts with some of the M.P.'s of some European countries in order to convince them that the human rights were not observed in Iran. The plan was quite rational and logical because after Mikailian's disappearance they were supposed to begin quite an extensive campaign outside of the country to say that he was in the regime's prison. In the next phase, after the discovery of the body of Mikailian, they were supposed to start a new round of propaganda accusing Iran of torturing Mikailian to death while being in prison."

—"What motivated you to choose a Christian pastor?"

—"If a Christian layman were killed, it would be natural to attribute his death to a family feud or other causes. But the death of a pastor who can play the role of a preacher of Christianity would create an atmosphere of cynicism and distrust among the people inside the country. It would make the people suspicious of government. It would also bring about the protest by international human rights groups outside of Iran. All of these would have been a great success for the organization."

—"How did you feel when you were doing your mission?"

—"I cannot easily describe my mental or emotional state while doing what I did. But right now, I am not feeling calm. Nor do I feel that my guilt-ridden conscience is helping me in this situation."

—"Could you talk about your family? Could you say something about the family environment in which you were raised?"

—"I don't want to talk at all about them because my family ceased to exist the moment I joined the organization. I can imagine how my family feels now knowing that their flesh and blood has killed an innocent man for the sake of her organizational ends."

—"Do you feel all right talking about the death of Dibaj?"

—"The plan to murder him was drawn up by other elements within the organization and they executed the plan. They just wanted me to prepare alternative maps of places where they could bury Dibaj's body in the vicinity of Tehran."

—"Did you do it?"

—"Yes. After surveying a lot, I drew a map of a recreational wood and gave it to them."

—"What motives did MKO have to kill Dibaj?"

—"This was also a well-thought-out plan and had similar motives like the one for the killing of Reverend Mikailian. The rationale provided by the organization was that with Dibaj's disappearance once again the same accusations regarding the case of Hovespian Mehr will resurface and once again the same human rights propaganda and the same declarations to pressure Iran would loom on the horizon."

Sermon Decries West's 'Silence' on MKO 'Terrorism'

LD0807103794 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 8 Jul 94

[Text] In his sermons today, Ayatollah [Mohammad] Yazdi, the acting Friday prayer leader of Tehran, strongly condemned the silence of organizations which claim to promote human rights toward the recent acts of terrorism by the hypocrites [monafeqin—pejorative reference to Mojahedin-e Khalq, MKO]. He said: Plans by hypocrites to create discord in the country have been nullified, and contrary to what their backers expected, the Iranian nation has attained even greater cohesion. However, why is it that countries which constantly speak of human rights have remained silent toward such an horrific crime and in effect lent support to blatant acts of terrorism which have received world-wide condemnation?

Ayatollah Yazdi added: Creating ethnic and religious discord was the most important aim of recent acts of terrorism, while at the same time by killing three Christian priests, the hypocrites were trying to misrepresent the condition of life for religious minorities in Iran. Moreover, through collusion with their international backers, they tried once again to bring the issue of human rights in Iran to the surface.

Addressing those countries which support terrorists and provide them with propaganda facilities, the acting Friday prayer leader of Tehran said: The public opinion of nations condemned the crime of exploding a bomb among ordinary people in one of Islam's holy sites. However, you, the supporters of the hypocrites, and the so-called champions of human rights, merely chose to be silent.

Ayatollah Yazdi continued his remarks by denouncing Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Gaza. He said: We are confident that contrary to the process of compromise, the Zionist regime, due to the uprising by the Palestinian nation, will eventually be forced to give the Palestinians what is rightfully theirs.

The acting Friday prayer leader of Tehran then referred to the civil war in Yemen, and said: The Islamic Republic of Iran is against plans, hatched by foreigners, to partition countries. We support unity between these countries [as heard].

Further on Yazdi Sermon

LD0807160694 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1100 GMT 8 Jul 94

[Second Friday sermon by Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi at Tehran University on 8 July—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] There are several issues which should be talked about briefly in this sermon. The first is the new ploy and plan of the hypocrites [monafeqin—pejorative reference to Mojahedin-e Khalq, MKO], the disgrace which, thank God, they suffered in the world, the plot they had hatched which was foiled in the face of God's plans, the outcome of which has so far been the opposite of what they wanted and, God willing, will be so in the future.

It is like this. The hypocrites achieved nothing from their old ways. Consequently, with the help of the enemies of Islam, they made new plans to take advantage of the make-up of Iran's population, in terms of ethnic groups and religious sects. This was the opposite of the plan of his holiness the imam [Khomeyni], may God be satisfied with him, who, with his prophetic wisdom, brought together all the ethnic groups and sects, united the whole country and set the Iranian nation, united and as one, against satan. And on the strength of that unity and solidarity they were able to overcome the enemy and bring about the reign of the Islamic system.

The hypocrites thought that, after more than a decade and the normalization of the situation, the two issues could be used. There are Sunni brothers living in Iran, particularly in our border towns in the west, the east, and a few in the south, and they could be used. There are also various ethnic groups in Iran such as Fars, Arab, Turk, Kurd, Baluch, and so on and so forth. And there are also recognized religious minorities living in Iran whom the Constitution respects.

They said let us come and do something to start a war inside the country between Shiite and Sunni, for example, in the first place, and then, if we can, between religious minorities and the government, or Shiites, and gradually make it an ethnic issue. And, in their own words, by creating crisis in the country, make the situation critical for the regime so that it will lose control, and they use factors that will increase the crisis. [passage omitted]

The hypocrites also intended to explode a bomb in Zahedan's mosque to create discord between the Shiites and Sunnis. They chose Mashhad and the shrine of Imam Reza because of the circumstances which they imagined would be present. Little did they know, however, that such things no longer exist. They chose Mashhad because of the other past incident in Mashhad, and because of another issue which concerned the religious dimension involving the Sunnis and the Shiites.

They then intended to carry out other acts, such as exploding bombs in the shrines of Her Holiness Ma'sumeh [in Qom] and his eminence Imam Khomeyni. They also murdered Christian priests, that is high-ranking Christian clergy, and tried to blame this and their other acts on the people, the government, and the division between Sunnis and Shiites, so that it would be said inside the country that religious differences were to blame for these acts, and in view of the level of public understanding in the border regions and remote areas, confrontations and clashes might be intensified and gradually turn into crisis. It was for this reason that the Qom shrine and Imam Khomeyni's tomb were to be the next targets. Later on, I will explain why they still went on carrying out their series of acts.

They killed the esteemed Christian priests because they wanted to insinuate that religious minorities do not enjoy any safety and security in Iran, and therefore human rights organizations must take more action against Iran at a time when a priest, who is a holy person for that country's Christians, has been killed supposedly by the government, and so on.

They even carried out all the preliminary work, such as preparing the statements and writing the texts, and decided where the statements would be posted to. You see! When the agents of such crimes receive their assignments, they are separated from the source who issues them with their orders. They then do not have any news about each other. They do not know to what extent their colleague has been successful. How are they going to know? Therefore, when they receive their orders to explode bombs or carry out murder and sabotage, they each go their own way, and when they enter the country they pursue their missions right to the end, as they do not have any information about their other colleagues. Little do they know, however, that God comes forward and severs the root of their plans, which leads to the collapse of the roof under which they had built all their plans; that is claiming that there is crisis in Iran, there is no security in Iran, religious and ethnic minorities enjoy no respect and security in Iran, and that Iran violates human rights.

Well, you are more or less aware that after the body of Mr. Hosvespian, a holy priest, was found, the country's security and judiciary machinery investigated the case for some time, while those same hypocrites kept talking about it abroad. Every time our investigations reached a promising point, they, using mouthpieces of foreigners, continued to say that he was killed by the regime, or by the pious people of Tehran.

Then Mr. Mikhailian, the second priest, went missing. His wife reported this and an investigation ensued. Some time passed. The investigations continued, but did not reach any conclusion. The MKO propaganda was more or less effective. Then God helped, and the body was found in a MKO team house. They put the body in a freezer and then moved to another place and left it behind.

The murderer was arrested while trying to flee the country, and related all the events, the mission and the manner of the killing. And, as it was written in the newspapers you have read, fortunately, the high-ranking Christian authorities in the country and the family of that honorable Christian priest came and heard from the murderer about the mission, the manner of the killing and the details.

Then the third priest—whose case was under investigation for a long time and about whom there was so much propaganda, which the country foiled very intelligently—went missing again, and no one could find him.

Meanwhile, Mr. Dibaj was found. He had been murdered by them, that is, those who thought that by killing Christians they could tell the world that minorities have no security or value in Iran. Then the agent said all those things about minorities. That has not come from us; it came from the agent who said he was assigned to it. And then in that same safe house, statements, letters, documents, plans, forged cards, and other things were found which helped the country's security machinery to proceed with the case. The plot was foiled and they can no longer say that minorities in Iran have no security, that human rights are not observed.

We all know about the explosion in Mashhad and the incident in Zahedan. Contrary to what they thought, it came to light that the hypocrites respect nothing, and the world—and many personalities who do not believe in religious issues, but are familiar with certain humanitarian principles—sent condolences to our country's top officials about holy place of worship and pilgrimage having been violated by the hypocrites, and they condemned it—I mean the hypocrites plan [Crowd chants: "Death to Hypocrites"]

Allow me. Death has come to them, and right now they are dead because nowhere in the world are they accorded any credit. Truly they are dead people who imagine they can do something; and every day you see that God does something so that their ignominy becomes greater in the world.

The hypocrites intended to create a crisis in our country by their plans, create clashes, killings between the Shiites and the Sunnis, intended to raise the issue of human rights outside the country, raise the issue of insecurity. In practice you noticed that the state came to be more cohesive, more united. And everyone condemned such acts and said such acts cannot be rationalized by any logic in the world.

Here, first I offer my condolences to the families of the Ashura martyrs in Mashhad, and offer condolences to the Christians in the country and the families of those respected men who were killed, who held responsible positions in this country and were killed by the hand of the hypocrites. They lived alongside the other people in this country. They helped in the war. They helped with economic problems. They cooperated everywhere. They were respected by us and are respected by us, according to the Constitution. I offer my condolences.

Second, to those who support that group and the MKO, accommodate them in their own country, give them propaganda means, put facilities at their disposal; and to the international organizations which let them in...[unfinished sentence as heard] Occasionally the hypocrites go to meetings and make use of international facilities. I say: You who advocate human rights—where have you been? While the world condemned the crime you did not utter a word. [passage omitted]

I tell you that, thanks be to God, our country, our people, whether Shiite or Sunni, in the center, in the west, in the south, in the north, in all the areas of our country; all our strata; and the religious minorities—recognized religious minorities which have the respect of the Constitution—have all stood guard, are standing guard and will stand guard en mass to maintain the foundations of this system and the sovereignty of Islam, which has safeguarded the interests of everyone better than any other government, and is safeguarding them and will do so in the future. [crowd chants "God is great," "Khamene'i is the leader," "Death to Hypocrites"]

Do you think this is Africa, where you could create differences and clashes by shedding the blood of some innocent people and provoking one side against another into fights against each other, thus opening the way for yourself? This is a proud, Islamic and divine country, which has stood and will continue to stand with greatness and pride through the sole reliance on its people. Your calculations are no longer valid. They are finished. The tools that you might misuse in other countries will not be effective here. Do not make a mistake. Do not repeat your mistakes. You will forgive me for speaking too long. God willing, you will hear of the confessions and executions of them all—those under arrest and those to be arrested. There will be no problem.

Time is short and there are several other issues I have to mention. I will try to be brief.

During the the mourning of Moharram we all witnessed the exalted leader, His Excellency Ayatollah Khamene'i, giving a firm order based on a firm fatwa. We all know that during the mourning ceremonies heretical acts should not be used or allowed. Examples were given and three or four cases mentioned. Fortunately, this was welcomed throughout the country. [passage omitted] I should point out to some people in this or that corner of the country that they should see and learn how to behave according to conditions of time and place. I should thank and praise all the people in the country, particularly the head of the marches, as well as the clergy who gave guidance.

But I should explain a point so as to clarify any misgiving. It has been said here repeatedly that fatwa and ruling [hokm] are essentially different. Fatwa is when the jurisconsult states that this is the rule of God, according to my understanding, and this is clear and final to me and my followers. Should his judgement be correct it enjoys two rewards, and should it be wrong it enjoys one. However, in the case of ruling, the guardian of the cause of Muslims gives orders and rules. These rules and orders must be implemented by all, even those whose fatwa are contrary to it. [passage omitted]

The imposition of the partition of Bosnia-Herzegovina, the pressure exerted by the Western powers, the raising of the issue of lifting the arms embargo and America's pressure to cancel this plan—which could in fact be described as rewarding the criminal Serbs—are among the issues with which we are all familiar. Unfortunately there is no time to elaborate on them.

Also we had 'Arafat's ignominious trip to Gaza. I cannot imagine a more degrading action. I do not know how low a person can get to go to the region and Gaza under the Israeli security umbrella.

Qom Clerics Criticize 'Silence' Over MKO Activities

NC1107080194 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0230 GMT 11 Jul 94

[Text] The Qom Seminarians' Association criticized the silence by international organizations, the so-called defenders of human rights, on the terrorist actions of the Monafeqin [meaning hypocrites, term used to describe the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization, MKO]. The association has called on these bodies to halt their support of these criminals, who do not believe in respecting sacred religious sites and who commit any crime against the ulema'—men, women, and children.

The Qom Seminarians' Association disseminated a statement thanking all the security and law enforcement officials and other individuals for the arrest of those responsible for planting the bombs in the shrine of Her Holiness Ma'sumeh (peace be upon her), the mausoleum of imam Khomeyni (may God be pleased with him), and the Makki mosque in Zahedan as well as the murderers of two Christian priests. It expressed the hope that those who planted the bombs in Mashhad will soon be arrested and meet their nemesis for their disgraceful acts.

Ruhani on Killings, Sovereignty Over Islands

LD1007112094 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 10 Jul 94

[Excerpts] In today's open session of the Islamic Majles, Deputy Speaker Ruhani, who was chairing the meeting, pointed to the countless terrorist acts of the monafeqin [hypocrites, Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization] and severely condemned the assassination of the two Christian clergymen. He declared: This was a plot to create religious conflict in the country and to damage Iran's image in world public opinion. He added, however, that the monafeqin's efforts to create differences among religious minorities had been defeated.

He said: The monafeqin were planning to bomb a number of foreign trade and airline offices in order to bring about a crisis between Iran and certain other countries, but they were also defeated here.

The Majles deputy speaker said: We think the world today faces a great historic evaluation in having to judge a terrorism that has no regard for any human, religious, or ethical values. He condemned the silence of Western media, international associations, and those who make claims about human rights regarding the crimes of the monafeqin. He said: Standing next to the Muslim people of the country, the religious minorities are waiting for the appropriate reaction of these organizations.

Mr. Ruhani called on the world's free-thinking personalities, religious scholars, and independent journalists to travel to Iran in order to learn of the documents obtained from the monafeqin and their confessions regarding their crimes. [passage omitted]

The Majles deputy speaker also expressed condolences to the family of the two murdered Christian clergymen and to their Christian compatriots.

Mr. Ruhani expressed regret over the statement issued at the end of the recent foreign ministers summit of the Six plus Two [Damascus Declaration states—Gulf Cooperation Council countries plus Egypt and Syria] in which futile and groundless claims regarding the three Iranian islands in the Persian Gulf were repeated.

He emphasized Iranian sovereignty over the Islands and referred to their history of Iranian ownership. He stated: As the most powerful country in the region, Iran has always respected the principle of good neighborliness and true friendship in relations with its neighbors.

He stressed that the Islamic Republic of Iran will not spare any effort to defend its independence and full sovereignty and will not allow anyone to cast greedy eyes at Islamic Iran.

Revolutionary Guards, Army Begin Exercises in Gulf

NC1007072794 Paris AFP in English 0709 GMT 10 Jul 94

[Text] Tehran, July 10 (AFP)—Iran's Revolutionary Guards (Pasdaran) and the regular army began military exercises Sunday [10 July] in the northern Gulf, officials said here.

The four-day manoeuvres, dubbed "Dawn-7," were aimed at testing the armed forces' "combat readiness and capability," they said. Speed boats, jet fighters and several large vessels would be involved in the exercise.

The speed boats, used by the Pasdaran, played a major role in the final years of the 1980-1988 war with Iraq, notably in attacks against foreign oil tankers passing through the Straits of Hormuz into the northern Gulf.

The Iranian armed forces are expected to hold about 40 series of manoeuvres in the Gulf this year, according to military officials.

Nuclear, Chemical Units Participate

LD1007121394 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 10 Jul 94

[Text] A joint amphibious maneuver, codenamed Fajr [Dawn], started in the northern waters of the Persian Gulf this morning. Various units of the Islamic Republic Guard Corps [IRGC] navy as well as some units of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Navy and Air Force are participating in the maneuver.

The maneuver is taking place in four phases with the aim of carrying out joint amphibious exercises in the most satisfactory way, assessing the performance of the participating units, putting into practice the experience gained during the imposed war, transferring the experience and military knowhow of old personnel to the new, reviewing methods of guiding various units and their commanders' performance, and boosting the combat capability of the participating units.

Rocket-launching and logistic-combat vessels, amphibious attack vessels, marine brigades, the nuclear, chemical, and biological unit, the tools unit, rocket-launching naval units, attack and logistic vessels, and bomber and fighter aircraft belonging to the IRGC's second region, as well as the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Army, are participating in the maneuver.

During the first phase of the maneuver, which was held this morning, the organization of the participating forces, the inspection of telecommunication wavelengths, the inspection of audio instruments, control of nuclear, chemical, and biological operations, and loading of instruments on personnel carriers and vessels were implemented.

During the second phase of the maneuver, tomorrow morning, operational forces will carry out reconnaissance operations on the hypothetical enemy, reaching the scene of the operation and the surrounding of the hypothetical enemy.

Commentary on Naval Exercises

LD1007124194 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1004 GMT 10 Jul 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The Navies of the Armed Forces and the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps began four-day maneuvers this morning off the southern coast. The aim of the maneuvers is to enhance the combat capability and readiness of the personnel and create further coordination among the naval units of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The Islamic Republic, possessing the longest coastline in the Persian Gulf, access to international waters, and strategic islands, has a vital role in maintaining peace and security in the Persian Gulf region. Iran's superior navy plus geographical particularities [vizhegiha] give Iran a key role in ensuring and maintaining security in the Persian Gulf region.

Maintaining a presence and intervening in the strategic Persian Gulf region have long been a factor for powerful governments outside the region. That is why those powers have always endeavored to impose their wishes on the region. After the Iranian revolution and Iran's departure from CENTO [Central Treaty Organization], when America's two-pillar arrangements in the region were disrupted, once again America tried to maintain its role in the region through making an axis of Saudi Arabia, strengthening Iraq, intervening in the internal affairs of some of the small Persian Gulf littoral states, and maintaining a constant and continuing presence.

The threat to this strategic international waterway in the past and at present has more than anything been a foreign one. At the moment also, when regional states are still unable to put together any active security agreements because of the tensions which foreign powers create, foreign equations have unfortunately become the essential condition for regulating security measures, rather than local interests. That is why the constant presence of foreign forces will always be a factor for increasing tension and increasing threats. Naturally America, on the basis of its long-term interests, stresses the need to maintain its presence in the region. With such a presupposition the criteria for understanding and peaceful coexistence among all the states in the Persian Gulf region will always be supraregional rather than regional, which in itself is threatening.

All the collective security agreements in the region, including the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council and the Six plus Two [Gulf Cooperation Council plus Egypt and Syria], as well as the separate military pacts between members of these groupings with the United States, France, and Britain, not only have not helped peace and security in the region, but from the point of view of the volume of amassed armaments—to the value of around $200 billion—and the making available of military bases to states from outside the region have turned the Persian Gulf into a powder keg. The United States, by its recent unloading of a large number of tanks and military vehicles in Kuwait, has increased its offensive capability in that country by up to three times. Postulating an imaginary enemy in order to sell arms and maintain a constant military presence—which in a way is considered military occupation—will in no way be beneficial for the nations and statesmen of this region.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, as a powerful state, believes, as it has declared many times, that any security measures from outside the region will not be stable and peaceful and further intervention and presence by foreign military forces in the Persian Gulf will render the region more insecure.

Government's Economic Policies Criticized

NC1007185894 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 5 Jul 94 pp 1, 2

[Editorial: "Price Increases—Sickness or Remedy?"]

[Excerpts] What is the reason for the constant rise in the prices of basic goods? Is this a way to put economic problems in order? Are these steps being taken within the framework of a calculated program? Where will it stop? Who are the decision makers? Are these decisions based on merely economic computation or do they include other issues as well? Where do the people and public opinion come in? Are their opinions important?

Maybe such questions on a newly-emerged or temporary phenomenon or something that some officials refer to as inevitable and necessary may appear to be meaningless, dumb, or hasty. But this is not the case. At least, we believe that it is not.

The phenomenon of price increases has been intensifying for some years, and unfortunately until now no serious comments have been heard by any competent source to justify it. When we speak to many experts and officials they list figures and propound economic deductions to justify the situation. And worse than this, they are never ready to go into a detailed discussion or to hear other or opposing views. Most of the time when an opposing view is expressed, they propound the issue of values and claim that opposing economic needs and ignoring economic facts and figures shows a type of obstinacy, is an effort to cause disillusionment, questions the government's policies and programs, and is—in short—a type of political opposition.

But is this true? The most important point that we can stress is that policies and promises contradict realities. This contradiction exists on the various levels of experts and of executive and legislative officials. And this is what has further intensified the need to discuss the problem, since basically we believe that in a system of values and of revolutionary ideas in which the people and public opinion enjoy a special and respectable place, no policy—even if one hundred percent correct—can be right unless it is accompanied by convincing justification for public opinion and by the people's participation. The important point is that many of our people still do not understand the reason behind the price hikes of basic goods. And in a system of values and of revolutionary ideas, the officials are duty-bound to compile and to implement correct policies on the one hand and to exert the necessary efforts to defend and to clarify these policies on the other. [passage omitted]

Recently the Supreme Economic Council increased most of the prices of medicine. It justified this step by claiming that the elimination of subsidies on medicine would increase production and thus create a balance in supply and in prices. But it is clear by now that this increase in prices will in no way lead to increased production because during the past two years similar steps were taken twice without any change in the medicine industry. The problems faced by the medicine industry in the country are like the problems in many other production units—problems that emanate from structuring, management, and operations. And as long as these problems are not solved, money cannot bring about any changes. What will happen is that scarce medicines will continue to circulate through the mafia of middlemen and will inflict astronomic costs on the middle and lower classes, thus leading to a drop in their living standards. And since there is no expert inspection on any of the policies and their outcomes, any review of the decision will be portrayed as a weakness. This basically stems from the wrong opinion that propounding such issues and problems show efforts to create disillusionment or opposition with the government's policies.

Ignoring such problems has become an epidemic. But definitely the fact that the direction in which we are moving is wrong will urge us to consider realities if we want to cure this sickness. The unrestrained price hikes and granting priority to the rapid elimination of subsidies without solving other problems such as difficulties in production, the need to expand social and insurance services, and striving for true participation by the people is not a logical and principled solution and will not solve any problems, as it has failed to do so until now. But definitely this process will continue in the coming months and in the coming year because it has taken the wrong course.

Nepal

Prime Minister Koirala Tenders Resignation

Loses Parliament Vote

BK1007142594 Hong Kong AFP in English 1407 GMT 10 Jul 94

[Text] Kathmandu, July 10 (AFP)—Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala of Nepal resigned on Sunday [10 July] after losing the support of parliament in a debate on his government's annual programme, the state radio announced.

"King Birendra received Mr. Koirala in audience and has accepted his resignation tendered to him," the announcement said.

After the vote on the government's annual socio-economic and political programme was announced, Koirala held meetings with ministers and leaders of the ruling Nepali Congress [NC] party. Then he decided to step down.

Eighty-six MPs in the 205-seat house of representatives voted against the programme. Only 74 voted in favour. Forty-three MPs, including 36 dissident members of the ruling party, abstained.

"We gave Koirala an ultimatum to solve the current political crisis by Sunday but he failed to do this, so we decided to boycott the voting," Chiranjigi Wagle, spokesman for the dissident group said.

"We want Koirala to resign as he has utterly failed to control corruption, mend the deteriorating national economy and safeguard democracy," Wagle said.

One senior parliamentary source told AFP Koirala might advise King Birendra to dissolve the parliament and bring forward elections not due until May 1996.

The main communist opposition held a parlamentary party meeting to discuss the prospects of forming a coalition with NC dissident MPs, party sources said.

Calls For New Elections

BK1007144594 Kathmandu Radio Nepal in English 1415 GMT 10 Jul 94

[Text] His majesty the king granted audience to Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala this evening. On the occasion, Prime Minister Koirala submitted his resignation from the post of the prime minister. The prime minister also submitted his recommendation for his majesty the king to dissolve the House of Representative in accordance with subclause 4 of the clause 63 of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Nepal 1990 and to set the date for future elections.

Following his resignation, the prime minister said in a statement: The vote of thanks motion expressing the policies and programs of his majesty's government as contained in the royal address could not be approved at today's meeting of the House of Representative.

The prime minister said the result of the parliamentary elections of [words indistinct] the wish of the people in binding all party MP's within the territory of the constitutional exercises and procedures. But in today's meeting, some MP's of the Nepalese Congress have gone against these constitutional practices and have assisted in defeating the policies and programs of his majesty's government, leading to my resignation effective from today.

Pakistan

Haider Remarks on Blasphemy Law Spark Protests

Papers Report Muslim Protests

BK1107051394

[Editorial Report] Several English-language newspapers report in their 10 July editions on protests by Muslim groups opposing an amendment to the blasphemy Law.

Islamabad THE NATION on page 12 publishes a 200-word Lahore-datelined report mentioning demonstrations and protest marches in several parts of the city. Lahore Muslim leaders were reported to be repeating their previous demands that Law Minister Syed Iqbal Haider be replaced for saying recently in Ireland that the law should be amended. An additional demand was for the prime minister and interior minister to state on television that the law would not be amended.

Karachi DAWN on page 6 rounds up its reportage on the issue with several items. A 200-word report mentions "a complete strike" encompassing all shopping centers, cloth markets, and bazaars in Multan outside of the cantonment. The paper says that demonstrations were held in several places, featuring burning tires and road blockades. Muslim leaders addressed several rallies, demanding that Haider be replaced by a religious scholar and that traders would lead a nationwide protest if the blasphemy law is amended.

In another 175-word report, DAWN says that a strike call in Gujrat was unsuccessful, with "99 percent of the business, trade and shopping centers" remaining open.

DAWN also carries a 200-word report on a "complete strike" in Sialkot, with all markets, commercial centers and industrial units closed. Several Muslim leaders held a joint news conference there, demanding the resignation of Haider and guaranteeing that a government attempt to amend the law would fail.

Finally, DAWN in a 450-word report cites an unidentified "large number of ulema belonging to various shades of opinion" as saying that the various strikes and protests on this issue were unjustified. These leaders were said by DAWN to be urging religious scholars "to not be misled by those who wanted to further their political motives by exploiting the religious feelings of the people."

Security Increased for Haider

BK1107095094 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN OBSERVER in English 11 Jul 94 p 12

[Text] Islamabad (NNI)—The federal government has tightenedthe security measures of the minister's colony, and especially of the Federal Law Minister, Syed Iqbal Haider, here in the federal capital. The measures has been taken following vows of death to the law minister by some of the religious leaders.

These leaders and religious parties include JUI (F) chief Maulana Abdullah Darkhawasti, Tehrik-e-Namoose-e-Rasalat Action Committee, Sapa-e-Sahaba Pakistan and some other religious parties.

The security measures around the residence of Iqbal haider have been tightened, as a special measure. The government has opted for these measures owing danger from some fanatic religious persons who can go all-out to implement the declaration and vows of their religious leaders.

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